

THE
L I F E
O F
HYDER ALLY:
WITH
AN ACCOUNT OF HIS USURPATION
OF THE
KINGDOM OF MYSORE,
AND OTHER CONTIGUOUS PROVINCES.
TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,
A GENUINE NARRATIVE
OF THE
S U F F E R I N G S
OF THE
BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR,
TAKEN BY HIS SON,
T I P P O O S A I B.

By FRANCIS ROBSON,
LATE CAPTAIN IN THE HON. EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S
FORCES.

Et quorum pars magna fui. VIRG.

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P R E F A C E.

IT may be proper to apprize the Public, that the Life of Hyder Ally has already been the subject of a Publication in the French language, by a Gentleman of that nation,* who appears to have enjoyed a command in the army of that Prince. I had however proceeded in composing the following History, as far as the close of the year 1769, before I knew that an attempt of the like nature had before been made. After a diligent and attentive perusal of a translation of this work, I have found many deficiencies to supply, many inaccuracies to correct, and many partial misrepresentations to confute, and place in their true point of view.

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* M. M. L. D. T. General of ten thousand men in the army of the Mogul Empire, and formerly Commander in Chief of the Artillery of Hyder Ally, and of a Body of Europeans, in the service of that Nabob.

He is particularly inaccurate in stating the numbers of the forces of the contending powers ; he uniformly diminishes the number of Hyder's troops, and augments those of his enemies, that the disproportion of numbers being less, the military skill and discipline of his hero may appear to greater advantage ; a fact which the French author cannot be blamed for endeavouring to establish, as he informs us, that Hyder Ally acquired the greatest part of his military knowledge, from the instructions of his countrymen.

Amongst these great masters in the art of war, I make no doubt but the author would wish to be considered, as having been eminently useful ; and he accordingly acquaints us, that he commanded a body of Europeans in the service of Hyder Ally : but as the European troops in the service of any of the Eastern Princes, are mostly composed of deserters, or dissolute and abandoned characters, we may fairly conclude, that he could derive no great honor

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honor from exercising a command over men of such a description.

The many illiberal reflections upon the English nation contained in this production of M. M. L. D. T. can only be considered as the effusions of envy, or the dictates of that national prejudice, which marks a vulgar mind ; and were evidently calculated for the entertainment of readers of that class. To the man of sense and liberality they must be disgusting, and appear as proofs of the extreme partiality and narrow prejudices of the author.

Of the following work I shall say nothing more, than that my intention in laying it before the public, is to relate only such transactions as came immediately within my own knowledge, or were obtained from persons competent to give the best information, and I can only lay claim to the confidence of my readers, from a residence of twenty years in India, and having been present in most of the actions between the English and Hyder Ally. I shall therefore present to the public a plain Narrative,

unadorned with Gallic pomp, or prolix descriptions of an Eastern Court, the manners of which are already well known in Europe, and in some parts too fatally copied.

I have forborne to compare Hyder Ally to Philip of Macedon, or his son Tippoo Saib to Alexander the Great. On the contrary, to form a fair estimate of these characters I have subjoined to this work a genuine narrative of the sufferings of the British prisoners, taken by their troops at Biddenore, and other places, in the late war; in which those who have already perused the French account, and those who may hereafter meet with it, may see the characters of Hyder and his son in their true light.

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H Y D E R A L L Y.

ABOUT the year 1728 (Cuttulich Chan) Souha of the Decan, or Governor General, sent ~~Tern~~mamood Cawn, an officer of reputation of the Pattan tribe, to dispossess the Nabob Abdul Rassoul Cawn, of his government of Sirpi, a province bordering on the kingdom of Mysore; this Prince being determined to try the event of a battle with his competitor, assembled his forces, and marched to meet him; a battle soon ensued, which was fought on both sides with great obstinacy,

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the action proved decisive, and Raffoul Cawn, the Nabob of Sirpi, was killed. Amongst the number of the slain was Fatty Naick,* the father of Hyder Ally, who was a reputable good foldier, and commanded in the Nabob's service, one thousand pcons, (or musket men) and one hundred horse. The body of Fatty Naick was transported to Colar, near one hundred miles from the field of battle, and there interred with great solemnity, after the manner of the Mahometans or Musulmen, he being of that religion.

After this victory, the Pattan Termamood Cawn was received into Sirpi, and acknowledged Nabob of that country.

Fatty Naick left two sons and a daughter, the eldest called Sabas Naick, afterwards Ismael Saib, and the other Hyder Naick, then a boy about ten years of age, who was born at Davanelli, a fort situated between Oscota and Colar. The eldest son and an uncle engaged in the service of the King of Myfore ; Hyder Naick for some years ;

* Who according to the custom of his tribe might afterwards have assumed the name of Nadin Saib.

years was moved from place to place, the most contiguous to the districts where his uncle and brother served ; he was of a bold, enterprising, tyrannic, and untractable disposition, totally deficient in point of learning, and unable either to write or read, neither could his haughty spirit stoop to receive instruction.

Carraforree Nanderauze, brother-in-law to the Myfore King, and his duan, or prime minister, and general of his army, was one of the many commanders who had assembled the troops of their several masters, in order to join the standard of the Souba Nazerzing, on his entering the Carnatic, in the year 1750, against Mustapha Jung, who was endeavouring to raise an army in order to seize the Soubaship of the Carnatic, which he claimed under the will of his uncle the former Souba.

Hyder Naick, at this time a stout young man, about twenty-five years old, assumed the name of Hyder Ally, and being tired of an inactive life, collected about fifty or sixty matchlock peons, and five or six horsemen, and marched to join Nanderauze,

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to whom he offered his service, which was cheerfully accepted. In the course of three or four years, he acquired influence and interest sufficient to raise five hundred sepoy, well armed and equipt with European arms and accoutrements, and a small body of black horse, about two hundred, with two small pieces of artillery.

In the year 1754 Hyder Ally, in an action against the English Company's troops, and those of the Nabob of Arcot, observing the baggage guard of their army quit their station, and that the Tanjore horse (allies to the English) were drawn up on the right flank to defend it, detached a body of his horse to amuse the Tanjoreens, and with the remainder galloped round the rear, attacked them, and cut most of them to pieces, and seized, among other things, thirty-five carts, laden with arms and ammunition, besides sundry private baggage belonging to officers of the army. This attempt was executed with so much conduct and judgement, that the English found it impossible to recover any part of
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their loss, which Hyder Ally carried quite off.

This unexpected success so raised his spirits and reputation, that on being required to deliver up his plunder to his master the King of Myfore, he excused himself, by an humble assurance of his loyalty, and saying, that both he and his foldiers were ready at all times to risk their lives in his service.

In the year 1755 he was ordered with three thousand foot, fifteen hundred horse, and four field pieces, against the Polligars, or Mountaineers in the Myfore country, who had not punctually paid their chout, or tribute into the royal treasury; herein he succeeded to his wish, rather by treachery than force, for being unwilling to leave any thing to the chance of war, in a country covered with wood, and only accessible by narrow passes, or foot-paths, to which his troops were entire strangers, and being possessed of a great share of cunning, he contrived, under pretence of negotiations, to get several of their chiefs into his hands, and extorted from them ten or twelve lacks
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of rupees ; he then sent them prisoners to his master, the King of Mysore, to whom he paid only half the above sum, reserving the other half for himself ; which insolent behaviour was much resented by the King and his Minister Nanderauze, who would have been glad of an opportunity to crush his growing power, and lessen the influence he had gained over the troops of his country.

As he suspected some attempt to reduce his authority, he judiciously sought every means in his power to establish and fix it on a more permanent foundation ; the large sums he had collected, left but few difficulties in his way, and those the future troubles of the Mysore country entirely removed.

In the year 1760, one of the Mahratta chiefs, named Gopelrauze, marched with an army of ten thousand foot, and twenty thousand horse, into the Mysore districts, and blockaded Benguloor, a place well fortified, and of considerable strength, in order to add that district to several considerable conquests his nation had formerly made in the Mysore country.

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The King and Minister equally jealous and apprehensive of Hyder's power, and unwilling to trust to the uncertain events of a war, proposed certain terms to the Mahratta chief, which were accepted, and fifty lacks of rupees agreed to be paid, on condition that Gopelrauze would withdraw his forces, and retire home. The King was near putting the last hand to the treaty, when Hyder, whose views were more extensive, and who dreaded nothing so much as a peaceable retirement, proposed and persuaded the King to break off the treaty, and permit him to march with the royal army, and give the enemy battle.

He accordingly marched with ten thousand sepoy, well armed, twenty thousand irregulars, and five thousand horse, and six field pieces; the enemy, on receiving intelligence of his designs, marched to meet him, and they came in sight of each other near Chinapatam; both armies being animated with desire of victory, a battle soon ensued, in which the Mahrattas lost three or four hundred men, and retreated to some distance. As the battle was not decisive,
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and the enemy were again united, and ready for action, Hyder began to think of terminating the dispute in an amicable manner; and the Mahratta chief not seeing any likelihood of making new conquests, in the face of so determined and able an officer as Hyder, proposed terms of accommodation, agreeing to relinquish all his former conquests, for the fifty lacks of rupees which the King had before promised, and to retire into his own country, where his presence was then become actually necessary, a strong party having been formed in his absence to dispossess him of his authority and command.

Previous to this payment the forts were all delivered up to Hyder, and garrisoned by the King's troops; but, when the money was to be paid, Hyder insisted on, and made a deduction of fifteen lacks for the expences of the war.

Gopalrauzc, the Mahratta chief, exasperated at this perfidious treatment, had no other resource, from the untoward circumstances attending his affairs at home, but at last to consent and retire with half the sum. The King, overjoyed at the success, but
astonished

astonished at Hyder's boldness, in the affair of the treaty, was, nevertheless, obliged to confer on him the title of *Bahawder*, and to appoint him General and Commander in Chief, in the room of Nanderauze.

Hyder Ally, suspicious of the intentions of the King and his Ministers, notwithstanding the honors conferred on him, labored, with great industry and cunning, to sow the seeds of enmity between them, and succeeded so well therein, that Nanderauze one day left the Divan, and forming a party among his friends, seized the gates and ramparts, and fired several cannon on the palace; the King, upon this, sent a friend of his, who persuaded him to desist from these violent proceedings, and retire for some time to Myfore fort, giving him full authority over the district annexed to it, for his support and pay of his people.

About six months after the Duan had left Seringapatam, the old King, his brother, dyed, and Hyder, who had with great care cultivated the young King's friendship and esteem, gave him suspicions of his uncle's intentions, and accordingly procured
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an order for himself to march and reduce the fort of Mysore ; Hyder, with great expedition, collected the troops and invested the place, which being tolerably well fortified, and bravely defended, held out for three months. The Duan finding the place could hold out no longer, from want of provisions, and sundry necessary stores, agreed to deliver it up, and, in lieu thereof, receive the government of Carrou, a district twenty-eight coss to the westward, and of much less value.

Hyder's scheme having thus far succeeded beyond his expectation, and his enemy being removed to a greater distance from court, began to assume all the power which his offices of Minister, and General, gave him, and, in this situation, thought himself secure from any reverse of fortune.

The King, upon whose authority he daily encroached, and who had already received several hints to Hyder's prejudice, as well as private accounts from his uncle, the old Duan, of his intentions, began to be jealous, and apprehensive of some dangerous innovation, and brought over to his party and interest, .

interest, *Conderow**, a man of a sly disposition, whom Hyder had placed near the King as a spy. This man, who had been Hyder's Duan, and had for some time been disgusted at his haughty behaviour and tyranny, by the King's order, assembled the guards, seized the ramparts nearest Hyder's quarters, and from thence fired several shot upon them; Hyder, surprised and astonished at the secrecy of this attempt, knew not whom to trust, and suspecting the whole military force then in the city to be concerned in this affair, immediately took horse, and fled, with a few of his friends and servants, to the strong fort of Bangalore, then in possession of his uncle, Ibrahim Saib, leaving his wife and family behind.

Previous to this assault, he had detached Mucktom Saib, his brother-in-law, a very bold enterprising officer, to Pondicherry, with 5,000 sepoy and 3,000 horse; on his road to Bangalore, he sent off an express to this officer, directing him to make forced marches and join him with the utmost expedition. The King, suspecting such an order, had

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* Called by the French author, Canerc

sent to Rajah Buntbing, a Mahratta chief, not far from the road Hyder's detachment was to pass, and engaged him for fifteen lacks of rupees, to march with all speed and intercept it. Accordingly, the Mahratta, with 4,000 sepoy and 7,000 horse, set out, and was joined on the road by Conderow, whom the King had immediately detached with 5,000 sepoy and 3,000 horse, for the same purpose.

They soon came up with Mucktom Saib, who had reached by this time the village of Anchitty Durgham, about twelve coss from Bengalore; here he took post, resolving to defend himself to the last extremity, in hopes his brother-in-law Hyder would attempt his relief; Hyder, still suspicious of foul play, durst not leave Bengalore, but accepted the offer of Meer Pharfula Cawn, a brave soldier of fortune, who, on hearing Hyder's situation, left Bodiccottah, with 50 sepoy, 10 horsemen, and his elephant, in order to assist in the present dangerous exigency. This man readily undertook to convey a supply of ammunition and provisions to Mucktom Saib, with an escort of 1,500 sepoy
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and 500 horse; this he bravely attempted, but lost all his stores and provisions, and with much difficulty joined Hyder's troops, losing only a few sepoy and horse.

A month was nearly elapsed in this service, when the Mahratta chief received an express of the death of their Nanna, or King; this induced him to think of returning to his country, when Hyder, on the same intelligence, opportunely offered him three lacks of rupees. This offer, which he accepted, together with the 15 lacks he had already received from the King, accelerated his march back. Hyder having, by this step, gained so very important a point, secured his authority in Bangalore, and marched immediately with the few troops he could muster, to attack his most inveterate enemy Conderow, his old Duan; Conderow being a man of experience, and seeing the necessity of a retreat, threw some of his force into Kistnagurr, Coveripatam, and other fortified places, near at hand, and with the rest retreated to Seringapatam; Hyder soon followed, with his brother-in-law, Mucktom Saib, reducing, in their way,

several small forts, but for want of provisions was obliged to march to Nonjudagoda, eight cofs to the south of the capital ; here he found it impossible to proceed, the whole country being in opposition to him, and determined to afford him no supplies whatever.

In this strange dilemma, he resolved on a very bold and dangerous attempt, notwithstanding all the arguments of his friends to dissuade him, and one night left his camp with ten trusty horsemen, and flew to Nanderauze, who was at this time returned to court, fell at his feet, wept, acknowledged his bad behaviour, and begged forgiveness. The good old man, astonished at the boldness of the action, and being overcome by his seeming penitence, was readily induced to believe his protestations to be sincere, and to think he only wanted to be reinstated in his post of Duan, which the King had conferred on his old servant Conderow.

The King was soon reconciled to him, and intercession was made for his reinstatement by the old Minister Nanderauze, who moreover promised, if necessary, to remove
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all difficulties by force of arms. Hyder having thus far gained his point, there only remained Conderow, who had put himself at the head of some troops, seeming resolved to support himself in his new dignity, knowing the King had been forced into this measure against him.

Nanderauze and Hyder, in order to reduce the new Duan Conderow, joined their troops, Hyder having sent for his brother-in-law, Mucktom Saib, with the army he had left at Nonjudagoda, marched to meet Conderow, who was then in the field at a small distance from the capital. Conderow's army was defeated, and his camp plundered, himself hardly escaping to the King, to whom he had related his misfortune, advising him of the dangerous connection between Hyder and his uncle Nanderauze.

After the battle, several of the King's troops entered into Hyder's service, at the instance of Nanderauze, who also published a manifesto, assuring the Mysore Bahawdas, that his friend Hyder had no treasonable designs against the government, that all he

aimed at, was to remove his enemy Conderow from the office of Duan, of which office he himself had been dispossessed by sinister means ; he also required them to assist and support him to the utmost, so infatuated was this old man, that he saw not the stroke aimed at himself, as well as the King his nephew ; in consequence of these orders, so favourable to the designs of Hyder, who having secured all the districts round, wherein he placed such as he could most confide in, and finding the old man Nanderauze of no farther utility, compelled him to retire to his old government of Carrou.

. Hyder then assembled the troops, paid them half their arrears, with a promise of the other half as soon as, by their assistance, he should be reinstated ; the officers, and the troops, thus surprized into a belief that his views extended no further than the removal of his enemy Conderow, marched and invested the capital of their country, which Hyder blockaded, so as to cut off all supplies.

Hyder, in this interval of a month, for so long was the place blockaded, had very artfully

artfully given the King such full assurance of his perfect obedience, that he prevailed on him to open the gates, and receive him as Duan, delivering up his old enemy Conderow. No sooner had he entered the place, in the year 1763, than he placed centinels on the palace gates, magazines, and other places, making the King a prisoner and seizing his treasure, with which he paid his troops their arrears, exclusive of fundry presents to the chief officers of the army, who had so religiously assisted him in his rebellious designs ;---he then shut up his old friend Conderow in a cage, and exposed him for several days to public view, then sent him to the fort of Bangalore, where he remained upwards of a year in this miserable situation, in which he died ; the iron cage, with his bones, are to be seen to this day, in the public bazaar of Bangalore.

Hyder continued in this capital near six months, settling the country, and establishing himself in his new government.

Termamood Cawn, appointed Nabob of Sirpi, in the year 1728, by Nizam al Muluck, dying in the year 1740, the Mah-

rattas, whose districts lay contiguous, assembled some forces, and after reducing the whole country, invested Sirpi, the capital of the province of that name. Delar Cawn the succeeding Nabob, wanting resolution, as well as the means of defending himself, gave up the place, on their ceding to him a small inconsiderable tract of country, near Colar.

The conquest of Sirpi and its dependencies, by the Mahrattas, gave great umbrage to the Soubah, who dispatched his brother Bafaletzing, with an army, to recover Sirpi from them. Ouscottah being the first place on his route, and on the frontiers of the Myfore country, was immediately invested; and though garrisoned only by seven hundred regulars, with country arms, stood a siege of two months, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of the Soubah's army.

Hyder, who was always ready to embrace any opportunity that offered, immediately dispatched Meer Phasula Cawn, with proposals to the Soubah's brother, Bafaletzing, offering to pay him five lacks
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of rupees for the title to Sirpi and its dependencies, requiring only the assistance of some of his troops for the reduction of the capital, engaging to compleat the rest with his own force.

The treaty signed, and the money paid, Hyder marched with his army, and joined the party lent him by Bafaletzing, attacked Ouscottah afresh, and in a few days carried the place by composition, which he garrisoned with his own people, and immediately marched to the reduction of Sirpi, which surrendered after a month's siege. This service being effected, the Soubah's army returned to Adony.

Hyder found little difficulty in settling this country, the Polligars, or Mountaineers of Chinnabalaporam, excepted; who, in the course of two or three months, had destroyed upwards of one thousand of his troops. Finding this to be an expensive, as well as a dangerous undertaking, the Mahrattas having frequently attacked his camp, while before Chinnabalaporam, and rendered his attempts ineffectual, he offered terms to Chinnapah, the Polligar Chief, who

godas, on condition of his withdrawing his army ; Hyder received one lack and a half in hand, and having sworn to the performance of the articles agreed upon, returned with his troops to Davenelli, about three cofs on his route homewards.

Morarow, a Mahratta Chief, who had been instrumental in the defence of Chinabalaporam, left at the request of Chinna-pah, the Chief, about five hundred of his people, as a reinforcement to the place, and returned with the rest of his troops homeward ; the Polligar Chief returning at the same time to Nanderauze, the usual place of his residence.

Hyder, who by his spies, soon learnt his absence, and thirsting for revenge on the Mahrattas, returned by forced marches, invested the place again, and by surprizing efforts carried it by assault the tenth day after his coming before it ; the Polligar troops being sent home, and the Mahratta Chief at too great a distance to afford the garrison any relief, he exercised his cruelty by mutilating numbers of the garrison, in
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order to strike terror into others, to facilitate his future enterprizes; having given the command of this place to one of his own relations, he set out with his army, in pursuit of the Mahratta Chief, and by forced marches came up with him at Podyaconda, attacked him without loss of time, and defeated his army, killed a great number of them, and took several of the principal officers prisoners. Morarow, after this defeat, retreated to Gutty, his capital; Hyder, satisfied with having compelled his enemy to retire, made a conquest of such parts of Morarow's country, as lay most convenient to his new acquisitions of Sirpi, nearly to the value of three lacks of pagodas yearly,

Thus having nearly compleated his design of recovering the antient district of his country, he marched against the Chief of Chittercull Durgam, a Polligar, depending also on the government of Sirpi, whom he soon reduced, and obliged him to pay three lacks of rupees, and assist him with 1,500 horse, and 10,000 foot in a new expedition.

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Previous to this transaction, the Rajah of Biddenoore (a very fertile province, surrounded with vast mountains and woods, which render it very difficult of access) had appointed his son, Chinavas Appiah, to succeed him in the government, in consequence of which, this boy, but nine years old, at the Rajah's death, was installed, and his name made use of in all matters relative to the state; this continued near a year, when the Queen formed a design against the young Rajah's life, in favor of her brother, the friend of the Rajah, who found means to remove him from Court, and sent him secretly to the care of the Polligar, the Chief of Chittercul Durgham; here he had remained in safety for eight years, to the time of Hyder's attacking the Polligar. It was here Hyder received the first impression of reducing the Biddenoore country; the reinstating the young Rajah, being the most favorable circumstance, and the most conducive to his secret design. A plan was now formed between the young Rajah, Hyder, and the Polligar Chief, to re-establish the Rajah in his

his country, for which service it was stipulated, that Hyder should receive, besides a valuable present, forty lacks of rupees for the expence of the undertaking, and he swore, without reserve, to the faithful performance of the treaty.

The combined armies now marched for Biddenoor, and the young Rajah, who was with them, attended with much ceremony, generally mounted on an elephant, in order to attract the eyes of his subjects; this succeeded to Hyder's wish, as all the country people cheerfully presented themselves, and furnished all the necessaries the armies stood in need of. The fortified places, for the same reasons, opened their gates to their lawful prince, and the armies met with no opposition, till they reached the capital, Biddenoor. This place being well fortified, surrounded by rocks and vast precipices, covered with impenetrable woods, held out only one month, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of the Queen and her brother, who had but little favor to expect from the resentment of the young Prince, as well as the faithless disposition
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of the conqueror, Hyder ; but the people, affected at the sight of their lawful king, surrendered the place ; however, previous thereto, they permitted the Queen with her brother, to retire to a place of safety, most agreeable to themselves ; they chose the fort of Derryabathar Gurr for their assylum, about twelve coss distant from the capital. This place is exceeding strong, built on an inaccessible large rock, on one side surrounded by the sea, and the other by a deep river.

Hyder having subdued Biddenoor, pursued them to this retreat, securing the country on his route. When he came near the place, he sent, in the name of their king, a summons to the garrison, who immediately surrendered themselves, and gave up the Queen and her brother. Hyder had taken care to garrison all the places he had taken with the Mysore troops, and returning to Biddenoor, where he confined the Queen and her brother ; all this time treating the young King with outward marks of respect and civility, till a circumstance happened, which at once accom-

accomplished all his ambitious views. The King was possessed of a favourite woman, for whom he had a very great affection; Hyder wanting some plausible pretence for a rupture, sent some of his servants for this woman, which coming to the King's ears, he ordered them to be dismissed in a very contemptuous manner; which being reported to Hyder, he immediately ordered the King into confinement, and a few days after sent him with the old Queen and her brother, under a strong guard, to Maddegurrey, a fortified rock, sixteen cöfs from Bengaloor.

This infamous treatment threw the whole country into a state of confusion, and occasioned many conspiracies against him, which he had the good fortune to discover, and in order to prevent all attempts in future, he put to death near one thousand of the principal inhabitants of the city of Biddenoor, in the most cruel inhuman method he could invent; their mangled limbs were suspended on every tree in the environs of the city. His blood thirsty rage not being satisfied with the above cruelties, he
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ordered the chief persons of every town or village, of whom he had the least suspicion, to be butchered in the like manner, besides many others, for the most trivial offences, had their noses or ears cut off. So that the inhabitants of the Biddenoor country, from the dread of his cruelty, were now reduced to the most servile obedience to his tyrannic will.

From this conquest he marched with his usual confidence and rapidity, into the Sonda country, a little distance from Goa, the King of which not being prepared for defence, abandoned his kingdom, and fled to a neighbouring Prince for protection; this country produces yearly about ten lacks of pagodas.

During Hyder's absence from the Biddenoor country, many of the great men, who had not been suspected in the former affair, plucked up courage, and applied to Mahádoorow, one of the Mahratta Chiefs, and promised him all the assistance in their power, if he would march a strong body of troops to relieve them from Hyder's tyranny. Accordingly he marched into the
Biddenoor

Biddenoor country, (where Hyder had but just arrived) upon his receiving information of this universal defection. The Mahratta troops consisted of sixty thousand horse and fifteen thousand foot; the two armies soon came to blows, and Hyder, by the enemy's superiority in horse, was worsted in three several engagements, and at last compelled to take advantage of the woody country near him, and there to intrench himself. In this situation he continued near twelve months, frequently attacked by the enemy, whom he, from the strength of his situation, as often repulsed with considerable loss. Mahaderow, seeing no prospect of restoring the King, proposed to return to his dominions, and leave Hyder in quiet possession of the Biddenoor country, Hyder agreeing to pay forty lacks of rupees to himself, and twenty more to his minister.

The Mahrattas being returned to their country, Hyder punished such of the delinquents as fell into his hands, with the greatest rigor and barbarity. Things being once more in tranquillity, Hyder left

his son, Tippoo Saib, in the command, and appointed Lala Mean, who had married his sister, to the command of a strong hold, a few miles distance. He also detached Meer Saib, (whose sister he had lately married) to the government of Sirpi. Meer Phafula Cawn was appointed to the command of Myfore fort and district; Mucktom Saib had the government of Siringapatam, the Myfore capital. Hyder's uncle, Ibraim Saib, continued in Bengaloor, and Amian Saib, his nephew, had charge of the Burmal Valley.

After these appointments, Hyder marched with a strong detachment to the Mallabar coast, where he entered into a friendly treaty with Ally Rajah, a petty Prince, and, with his assistance, laid siege to Callicut, the capital and residence of the King of the Nayres, which place made a stout resistance for three months, and at last surrendered on honourable terms.

About this time Meer Saib, who was in the government of Sirpi, found means to secure the Polligar chief, Chinapah, and, notwithstanding he had most solemnly sworn
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to release him, on his agreeing to the several conditions enforced on him, yet he was so perfidious as to send him a prisoner to Bengaloor, where, in a few days, he died through grief. This chief would never have surrendered himself to Meer Saib, had he not been in the utmost distress for want of the necessaries of life, being almost starved on the Nandegoody Rock.

Hyder, to secure himself against any future attempts of Chinapah's son, who was then a young man, caused him forthwith to be circumcised by force, and taught the principles of the Mahometan religion.

The Samorin, or King of Callicut, being of the Bramin sect, and accustomed to feed a number of that persuasion daily, he himself taking no refreshment until they had been served; and besides, from the rigidity of his principles, never accustomed to have any kind of intercourse with those of the Mahometan tribe, refused, in the politest terms, the honor Hyder intended him of a visit*, but sent a Bramin to converse,

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* Here the French author is most certainly mistaken, who, says, in p. 110, vol. I. of his work, that the Sa-

and report to him Hyder's intentions relative to his request of the necessary provisions for the accustomed charity ; soon after this intercourse Hyder returned, and directed that a sufficient quantity of grain for 500 men, should be sent to the King, who was forced to rest satisfied ; the next day a considerable deduction was made out of this allowance, and the third day the same ; on the fourth an entire stop was put to this supply, and Hyder having sent some principal Moormen to observe how matters went, they returned, telling him, they apprehended some strange event from the gloomy aspect of the King's attendants ; that the King himself had already fasted three days, and was then preparing for some particular ceremony. The King, being provoked at this cruel treatment, had assembled all his family, and after performing some ceremonies

morin came forth to meet Hyder, and fell at his feet. Now it is well known to every one, that has been on the coast of Mallabar, that the Nayres are the most haughty people on the face of the earth, would sooner suffer death than degrade themselves by falling at the feet of any person, more especially at the feet of a Mahometan ; they having the utmost contempt for that tribe.

ceremonies with the chief Bramins, ordered fire to be set to different parts of the buildings of his palace, which were of wood, and the whole, together with himself and family, were entirely consumed.

Upon the King's death, Hyder garrisoned the place with 200 foot and 500 horse, and with the rest of his army set out for the Coimbatour country, forty coss, on his route homeward. About two months after he had left Callicut, a brother of the late King brought an army of 20,000 men before the place, which, by intelligence from within, he forced, and put the whole garrison to the sword, except about 300, who fled to a pagoda, or temple, for safety; Hyder being informed of this disaster, immediately detached Asouph Cawn, with 5,000 foot, and 1,000 horse, with strict orders to fight the enemy at all events. On the approach of Hyder's troops, the King's brother marched out and gave them battle; but being worsted in two attacks, and not choosing to be shut up, left the place in the night, and retreated with his army, and all the inhabitants, to

the woods, leaving Hyder's troops in quiet possession of the country.

Three months being past in quiet, and Hyder's party lulled into a state of security, when they least suspected, the King's brother again appeared before the place, retook it, cut off Afouph Cawn's head*, and killed a number of his people, the rest flying with the bad news, reached their own country. This event happened about the year 1766, which so exasperated Hyder, that he, in person, led an army of six thousand foot and two thousand horse, against Callicut; after two days march, he gave the command of his troops to Sevagee Row, a Mahratta Bramin, who, coming before the place, was immediately attacked by the King's brother, who, being again worsted, retired to his old retreat, the woods, leaving an empty place to Hyder's General.

Hyder, on giving up the command of this army, returned with all possible speed, accompanied by his household troops, to Seringapatam, having received private advices,
that

* The French author has not mentioned any thing of Afouph Cawn's being killed here,

that Mahaderow, a Mahratta chief, was in motion, and preparing to recover the territories which his predecessor Goupalrauze had ceded to Hyder in the year 1760.

Although Hyder's heart was ready to burst with vexation on hearing this news, yet he was resolved to make a triumphant entry into Seringapatam, of which a most pompous account is given by the French author, who has been at great pains to set forth Hyder in all the glory and lustre that could possibly be displayed on the occasion.

Mahaderow, meeting with little opposition, recovered all the above districts and forts, the Sirpi country, with Ouscotta, Chinabelaporam, and their dependencies also. In the month of January 1767, and the ensuing month, the Soubah, Nezam Ally, with Basseelat Jung, his brother, and their armies, joined by a detachment of the English East-India Company's troops, proceeded from Hydrebad to join Mahaderow; but the Soubah trifling away his time in collecting some Circar revenues, did not affect a junction until April; during this, the Mahrattas were not idle, for they had al-

ready taken and possessed themselves of Chinna Ray Durgam, Davil Ray Durgam, and the strong fort of Magdeghemy, in which last place they found the young King of Biddenoor, with the old Queen and her brother ; after which he took several other places of note, and raised considerable contributions.

Hyder, during this time, finding such a storm likely to fall upon him, had been putting his principal forts in the best state of defence, likewise laid in a sufficient store of ammunition and provisions ; then collecting what force he could spare for the field, encamped them under the walls of Seringapatam, and caused the flanks and front of the encampment to be entrenched and fortified, determined to wait the event, and immediately issued orders, that grain, and provisions of all kinds, which could be found thirty miles round Seringapatam, should be brought into that place, and there laid up in store ; by doing this, he thought effectually to put a stop to the advancing of the combined armies. He, at the same time, was carrying on private negotiations with the

Soubah,

Soubah, by means of Maphuzcawn, who was sent as ambassador from Hyder, on his first receiving the news of the combination against him. He also sent a Vackeel to Mahaderow, the Mahratta chief, who soon patched up a treaty of peace with him, by which he ceded to him the places he had already taken, and paid him thirty-five lacks of rupees, on receipt of which the Mahrattas returned to their own country, refusing to give the Soubah any share of what they had obtained.

The English detachment having received several augmentation of troops, and General Smith observing the duplicity of the Soubah, and suspecting the part he was going to act, being then near Bangalore in the Myfore country, very wisely withdrew the army, and returned to the borders of the Carnatic, about the middle of May 1767, and the Soubah marched and joined Hyder's army by the 24th of the same month. By this time, the English had certain intelligence of the designs of Hyder and the Soubah, and that their grand object was the entire conquest of the Carnatic.

General

General Joseph Smith viewed the growing storm in its proper light, repeatedly remonstrated to the Governor and Council of Madras, to furnish his army with proper supplies of draught and carriage bullocks, which he stood in great need of, with every other article for carrying on a fresh campaign ; but they not paying a proper attention to his remonstrances in time, Hyder's and the Soubah's united forces entered the Bermall Valley, and immediately commenced hostilities. The Soubah's forces consisted of thirty thousand horse, ten thousand sepoy, peons, and a great number of rocket men, and sixty pieces of cannon, with an immense train of luty wallas, or freebooters. Hyder's army, of twelve thousand well-appointed black horse, eight hundred Mogul horse, and a troop of sixty European hussars, a battalion of one thousand topasses, five thousand grenadier sepoy, and eight thousand battalion sepoy, all armed with Europe muskets and bayonets, four thousand matchlock and rocket men, and forty-nine pieces of cannon.

The

The English army, at this time, consisting of no more than two regiments of Europeans, which together only amounted to eight hundred men fit for duty ; seven battalions of sepoy, about eight hundred men in each ; the corps of artillery, and about five thousand of the Nabob's black horse, and a small troop of thirty European horse, commanded by myself, then a Lieutenant.

Hyder detached several large bodies of horse to harraßs and surround the English, which they did, so as to prevent any supplies from coming in their camp, in the mean time other parties of his horse ravaged the country, and set all the villages in flames. Hyder being well convinced, that he should more effectually distress the English by harraßing them than coming to a battle, constantly kept sending fresh detachments of horse, and took all opportunities to cut off their supplies ; he was therefore fully determined to adhere strictly to this plan ; but luckily for the English, the haughty disposition of the Soubah and his Bahaudars, could not brook this tedious method of carrying on the war, and accordingly upbraided Hyder for

44 THE LIFE OF

for not fulfilling his promise of cutting the English army to pieces.

The English army now moved towards Singurpettah Pass, which leads out of the Burmall Valley to the Carnatic, being reduced to the greatest distress for want of rice, and other provisions. Hyder, and the Soubah, came to the resolution of attacking them, which they accordingly did on the second of September, near the fort of Changama. They made their appearance about noon, on which the English struck their tents and prepared for action, which commenced about two o'clock. The flower of Hyder's army sustained the heat of the battle in front, headed by himself; and the Soubah's attacked the English in their rear and flanks. This battle was fought with great obstinacy on both sides till about eight o'clock in the evening, when the Soubah's army gave way, which occasioned Hyder to do so likewise, who lost in this action above 1000 of his best men. The Soubah also sustained a very heavy loss, although the exact number was never ascertained. The English were now masters of the field, but
could

could not pursue the blow, owing to their want of ammunition, as they had not above two or three rounds left for some of their guns, and not more than ten or twelve rounds at the most for the others; which determined the General to move towards Trinomally that night. Hyder soon got intelligence of the English being on the march, on which he ordered some parties of horse to harraß them as usual, which they did effectually all night; although it was very dark, the English kept close order, and proceeded on but slowly, often halting, and now and then firing a shot or two, just to keep off the horse; they arrived at Trinomally in the morning by day-light, at which place they found a supply of ammunition and provisions, and were soon after joined by Colonel Wood's southern division; and being now recovered from their fatigue, encamped at some distance from Trinomally. Hyder and the Soubah now advanced again with their armies, and encamped themselves in a strong situation near Trinomally, but on the other side the hills; here Hyder made a vain parade, by getting some of his
guns

guns on the hills, and firing at the English camp, which served mighty well to amuse the Soubah's Bahawders ; and also afforded some diversion to the English soldiers, as the shot never reached their camp, and of course could not have the desired effect. The General endeavoured for some days, in vain, to draw Hyder out of this strong hold ; however, a circumstance happened in his favor, which caused Hyder and the Soubah to move, on the morning of the 26th, with their armies, and quit this encampment, wherein they had so very judiciously taken post, as it was not liable to be forced by the English in the night ; a circumstance Hyder always endeavoured to guard against. This place was almost impregnable by nature, being situated in a small pleasant valley, amidst several high rocks, having only two openings, one to the Westward, leading towards the Mysore country, and the other to the Eastward. In the midst of this Hyder had constructed a large redoubt, with several guns mounted therein ; this place was about six miles N. W. of Trinomally. The English
army

army had moved the preceding day, and encamped in another valley, about three miles distance from Hyder's camp, when General Smith ordered Captain Cook, with his batalion of sepoy, and their two light brass three-pounders, to take post in front, on a rock about half way between the two camps, from whence he could descry the enemy's motions. Next morning, being the 26th, as before mentioned, on the General's receiving intelligence of Hyder and the Soubah advancing from their encampment, he ordered me with the part of my little troop, who were off duty, immediately to proceed to the rock whereon Captain Cook had taken post, from whence I was to observe the motions of the enemy, and send him intelligence thereof, by detaching one or two of my men, from time to time, as occasion required; during which the English army were in motion, and advancing in two columns, attended, as usual, by some of Hyder's horse, straggling around them. Having made all the observations I thought necessary, I took my leave of Captain Cook, and with four men I had left

left with me, galloped across the plain, and passed amongst Hyder's stragglers to join the General, whom I met at the head of the army, then in discourse with a harricar, or guide, who was telling him, that there was bad ground in front of the army, which they could not easily pass. On my hearing this, I immediately confuted him, and told the General that I had but just now come over the ground, and that was all a hard gravelly soil, without any obstruction whatever, excepting a few straggling bushes. I thereupon offered my service to conduct the army that way ; the General desired me to do so ; on which I acquainted Colonel Wood (who commanded the first column) with my orders, and in about half an hour, I conducted the front of the army round, just on the right of the aforementioned rock, from whence they were in full view of the enemy, some of whom not then being above half a mile distance. By this manœuvre, Hyder's designs were somewhat frustrated, who expected that they would have come to the left of the said rock, where he had already posted about twenty
field

field pieces, on the bank of a tank, from whence he could have completely flanked them, had they moved that way ; the evading of which was certainly the effect of my observations, with which I had before acquainted the General, while I was on the rock. It being now about noon, when a severe cannonading commenced on all sides, the main body of their horse being now preparing to make a charge, which the General observing, immediately formed the line, and the men received the charge with the greatest steadiness imaginable, reserving their fire until the enemy were almost on their bayonets. Our field pieces, some of which were short twelves, were well supplied with canister grape, as was also the two howitzers, which soon put them to the route, the grape shot doing great execution, cutting down both men and horses in heaps, which effectually cured them of making another charge that day. The English advanced briskly, while Hyder's people as bravely disputed every inch of ground, or eminence, whereon they could make the least stand, there being several

small rocks interspersed on the plain; in this manner the battle continued until it was quite dark. Hyder and the Soubah being now very near their strong encampment, took possession of it, and the old fox, Hyder, perceiving how matters were likely to turn out, very wisely embraced the opportunity of the night, to send off all his own guns and baggage through the West pass, except one, which had stuck fast in a swamp, and was taken by the English. The English contented themselves with keeping possession of the field of battle, where they reposed their weary limbs, until four o'clock in the morning, when they got under arms; and, observing the greatest silence, moved on towards the enemy; by day-break they came in front of Hyder's redoubt, which they found was abandoned, and the cannon taken away; on which they pressed on into their camp, when a hot fire commenced, and the battle again maintained with the greatest bravery on all sides, till at length the Soubah's people gave way, and of course Hyder's were soon obliged to follow, being closely pursued

sued by the English until twelve o'clock at noon, when the General observed that his men were extremely fatigued, and at the same time being urged by humanity, ordered the army to halt, on which this dreadful scene of carnage ceased. On a moderate computation, Hyder and the Soubah lost upwards of 1200 men killed, besides those that were wounded. The Soubah also lost in this action thirty-seven brass guns, from twelve to twenty-four pounders, most of which were of French manufacture. Some time after, when the Soubah made peace with the English, all those guns were absolutely restored to him again, although the French author, in his life of Hyder, vol. 2, page 84, is pleased to say, viz. " The English have published, that
 " they took many pieces of cannon belong-
 " ing to the Nizam, on the day of battle,
 " which they afterwards returned, when
 " they made an accommodation with them.
 " There are strong reasons for doubting
 " this fact; because these pieces were not
 " conducted in triumph to Madras, where
 " they would have been exhibited, if it

“ were for no other reason than because
 “ they were ornamented with the fleurs de
 “ lis.”

In order to confute the above, I absolutely declare upon honor, that I saw the aforementioned thirty-seven guns after they were taken, and they were sent into the fort of Trinomally, from whence, some time after, they were sent to Chittyputt, and Wandewash, at which places they were kept, until the Soubah had obtained peace of the English, and then they were restored to him again, as before recited. The French author, if he had chose to recollect himself, must have known, that the fleurs de lis of France could be no rarity at Madras ; on the contrary, they are so common, as not to be noticed, even by the blacks ; witness the number of guns that were taken at Pondicherry, and many other forts, that yielded to the superior arms of Britain, in the years 1760 and 1761.

Some time before the aforementioned action, Hyder had detached his son, Tippoo Saib, with a considerable body of horse, to proceed

ceed immediately to the environs of Madras, with strict orders to pillage and destroy every thing they could ; even the Black Town was to have undergone the same fate, but was timely prevented, thro' the industry of Colonel Call, the chief engineer, who caused all the gentlemen and free inhabitants to arm themselves, and do duty as militia, together with what troops could be spared from the garrison, (which was but thinly manned) to defend the Black Town, which they effectually did, and prevented Tippoo Saib's people from entering, although part of the West face, and the whole of the North face, was at that time quite open, and destitute of fortifications. In the interim, the Governor received an express from General Smith, intimating that he had obtained a complete victory over the combined armies of Hyder and the Soubah ; this gave fresh spirits to him, who caused this news to be announced by firing the guns of the garrison, loaded with shot, that was on the West side, and towards the camp of Tippoo Saib, who as yet was totally ignorant of the

cause thereof, but the intelligence soon reached him; on which he made a sudden retreat, and marched with all possible haste, to join his father, who with the Soubah, were retreated to Coverypatam, at which place he joined him.

Being near the time of the monsoons, or rainy seasons, they cantoned their armies. The English army also marched into cantonments at Vellore, Wandewash, Conjeveram, &c.

The latter end of November the rains abated, when Hyder assembled his forces, and marched immediately into the Burmall Valley, and invested two mud forts, viz. Tripotore, and Vaniambady. They had only 500 English sepoys, and a few of the Nabob's, to defend them both, although the French author says, there were in Vaniambady only, viz. 30 Europeans, and 1000 sepoys; both these places made very little resistance, and surrendered on terms. Hyder, after putting a sufficient number of troops in these forts, proceeded farther down the Valley, and invested Amboor, a considerable fortification on a rock, the
town

town (or pettah) situated below, and environed with a mud wall ; Hyder soon raised batteries against the pettah, when the English officer commanding, seeing the impossibility of defending it, very prudently retired with his men to the upper fort, and immediately sent off an express to the Governor of Madras. On this the English army were ordered to assemble again in the greatest hurry at Vellore, (except that part which had gone to the Southward to Tritchenopoly). When the English were assembled at Vellore, and collected all the bullocks they possibly could procure, to carry rice, and other provisions ; also some draught bullocks for the artillery, which they stood in extreme need of, they marched to the relief of Amboor. On their approach Hyder raised the siege, and moved up the valley again. The Soubah continued to march with his army up the Valley, as far as Coverypatam, where he encamped ; but Hyder, with the flower of his army, halted at Vaniambady, where he took post in a very judicious manner, being

fully determined to have a trial with the English, with only his own troops.

On the 8th of December, the English army made their appearance before Vaniambady, when they found Hyder already posted, his right wing being covered by the fort and pettah, with the river in their front ; their left was also secured by some impassable ground, so that the General was obliged to attack him in front, which was accordingly done, viz. some guns were immediately drawn up on the high banks of the river, which was almost dry ; from them they kept up a severe fire, under cover of which, some of the army began to cross the river, when Hyder's troop of European horse appeared on the sands, in the bed of the river, who moved round towards the left of the English, whom they joined, agreeable to a plan before concerted by the Chevalier Saint L—b—n, who was to have performed wonders, and would have made the English believe, that it was in his power to have brought off the major part of the Europeans, then in Hyder's service, but his schemes proved abortive.

I take

I take this to be the Chevalier Surgeon, mentioned by the French author, in his 2d vol. of the History of Hyder Ally Cawn, pages 121 to 127, which seems to me to be somewhat partial, therefore those who choose to peruse that work, will be able to form an opinion for themselves.

By this time the main body of the English were in the river, when a hot fire commenced on both sides, which continued above an hour, when Hyder began to retreat, leaving only a party, composed chiefly of topasses, officered by Europeans, who were posted in the remains of an old village, among the mud walls, which they maintained very obstinately, until they were dislodged, when the whole of Hyder's army retreated, and the fort of Vaniambady was evacuated. Hyder conducted this retreat in a more regular manner than he had ever done before. The English pursued him for some time, but on his retreating so judiciously, they thought it more advisable to return to Vaniambady, at which place they remained some days, until they had received fresh supplies of provisions.

Hyder

Hyder continued his march to Coverypatam, where he again joined the Soubah. This was the third time of his being defeated by the English; the loss in killed and wounded, on either side, in this action, was inconsiderable, in comparison to either of the aforementioned battles.

Here it will not be improper to point out another mistake of the French author, who, in the second volume, p. 115, says, “the English army consisted of 28,000 men, of which 5,000 were English;” also at p. 118, of the same volume, he says, “they had 200 English dragoons.”

I was present, and am sure that they had not, at this time, 1,000 Europeans in their army fit for duty, nor above 15,000 black troops of all denominations, and only a little troop of 36 dragoons, commanded by myself.

The supplies of provisions being safely arrived, the General ordered a party of sepoy into Vaniambody as a temporary garrison, then marched with the army towards Cove-rypatam, until he came in view of Hyder’s camp, where he encamped in a most convenient

nient situation, not above three miles distant from Hyder's, at which place he was soon after joined by the southern division from Trichenopoly.

Hyder, by this time, had raised several strong redoubts in the front of his encampment, mounted with cannon, and manned by his European troops, composed of deserters from the different European powers, but chiefly French; the plain in front of which he had caused to be covered with bushes of very strong thorns, fastened down; the fort of Coverypatam on his right, and a high range of hills on the left. The English did not think proper to attack him in this strong situation, but remained still within sight, and about three miles distance. During this time, the Soubah began to be heartily tired of the war, and, unknown to Hyder, sent his Duan, Rucana Dowla, to set on foot a treaty with the English, and absolutely brought about a separation of the Soubah's army from Hyder's. The Soubah, with his army, marched near to the Damalcherry Pass. By this time a detachment arrived
to

to the northward in the Circarrs, from Bengal, consisting of three hundred and fifty Europeans, and two battalions of sepoy, with a proper train of artillery ; with these troops the English threatened to march towards Hyderabad, the Soubah's capital. This greatly alarmed him, and he was glad, at all events, to conclude the peace with them.

The English army began to be in want of rice, and receiving an account of an escort being on the march with that commodity, Major Fitzgerald, an experienced officer, was detached with two companies of grenadiers, and one battalion of sepoy, in order to join and strengthen the escort, and conduct it safe to camp.

Hyder also had received intelligence of this escort of provisions, and he himself, at the head of 4,000 of his best horse, and some sepoy, marched to intercept it, if possible ; the English also hearing of Hyder's movement, sent off another strong detachment, who came within sight of Hyder's party near Varruor. Hyder, on this, made a shew as if he would attack them, but suddenly

denly moved off and marched towards Surgapettah, at which place Major Fitzgerald was just arrived with the escort, which he had joined the day before ; on the appearance of Hyder, the Major prepared for an attack, and posted the escort under the walls of Surgapettah, it being only a mud fort. Hyder lost no time, but immediately attacked the Major, and met with a very severe repulse ; he nevertheless renewed the attack, but with no better success than the former ; and, after parading with his horse several times round the escort and fort, and finding he could make no impression, he marched off towards his camp ; and the next day the Major joined the other detachment with his escort, and afterwards arrived safe in the English camp.

After the Soubah's separation, Hyder left a strong garrison in the fort of Coverypatam, and marched with his army through the Palcotah Pass into the Mysore country, which ended the year 1767.

In January 1768, the English army took the field in two divisions ; viz. one to the southward, and the other to the northward,

in order to attack Hyder's dominions in different places at once; Colonel Wood had the command of the southern division, who was ordered to proceed to Davempoor and reduce that place, after which to proceed to Tingracotah, Atoor, and Selim, the capital places of those districts. The northern division, commanded by General Joseph Smith, marched up the Valley, and sat down before Coverypatam, which they soon reduced; after which the General marched and invested Kistnagurrey, the most material fort in the Burmall Valley, situated on a high rock, accessible only on one side, and that very difficult to ascend, he having intelligence that they had only one month's provisions in the fort; however, they contrived to make it last longer, for they held out until the 1st of May, and then surrendered to the English. During this siege, Colonel Wood, with his army, had made great progress to the southward, and had taken several of Hyder's forts, and got possession of large districts of fine fertile country.

The Governor and Council of Madras had resolved that the northern army should
pass

pass the mountains, and attack Hyder's dominions to the northward, on which the General gave his opinion, that the army ought not to pass the mountains, until they were fully prepared to go against Seringapatam and Bangalore, Hyder's too principal places; that could he get possession of those, the smaller ones would fall of course; on the contrary, should they determine on reducing the smaller ones first, the inhabitants of the whole country would fly, provisions would grow scarce, and the troops, by being constantly harassed, (which undoubtedly would be the case) they would grow tired, and probably sickly; that as long as Hyder could send a superior body of horse into the field, they could reap no advantage from the country dependent on these forts; and, of consequence, it would very little facilitate the principal end of the undertaking, viz. the entire reduction of Hyder. About this time the English received intelligence, that the Presidency of Bombay had fitted out an expedition against Hyder on that side, and that they had reduced the forts of Mangalore and Onore, and had fortified the island;

this

this was a capital diversion, and was attacking Hyder in the quarter he least expected, and would most essentially distress him. Hyder, immediately on hearing this, marched with the principal part of his army to the Mallabar coast, in order to retake Mangalore and Onore. During Hyder's absence, the English army, in July, marched to Ouffore and took it, after which they began to prepare for the siege of Bengalore: an indent was accordingly sent to Madras, for a complete battering train of artillery, ammunition, &c. &c. which could not reach the army in less than three months.

But to return to Hyder. On his approach to Mangalore, the Bombay detachment were intimidated, and most shamefully abandoned their conquests; the greatest part of them were made prisoners, many guns and stores, and the money they had for the use of the detachment was also taken. This infamous behaviour of theirs greatly encouraged Hyder's troops, and left him at liberty to return to defend his country on this side. Hyder, after raising considerable sums of money, and some more horse, in the Bid-denore

denore country, arrived with all possible haste at Bangalore, with his army, on the 28th of July, where he was very busy in putting them in the best order in his power.

Hitherto, the operations of the Madras army was unmolested, but they soon found they had now a powerful active enemy to deal with.

In the beginning of August, the English northern army was joined by Morrarow, a Mahratta chief, with about 1,500 horse. On the 24th, at night, Hyder, with a strong party, surprized and entered Morrarow's camp, which lay at some little distance of the English, with a morass between them; a party of English was immediately sent to his relief, and Hyder retreated with the loss of 150 of his best men. Morrarow was wounded himself in two places, and behaved very bravely at the head of a small party that he had assembled together on the first alarm.

Colonel Wood, who commanded the southern army of the English, and had taken the Selim and Coimbatore countries,

was now ordered to march to the northward, and join General Smith's army.

Hyder, elated with his late success on the Mallabar coast, marched from Bangalore, with 10,000 horse and 8,000 sepoys, and 14 light field-pieces, part of which he had taken from the Bombay detachment, and took the route of Buddecotah, through which pass Colonel Wood's route lay; however, Wood got through the pass, and took post under the walls of Buddecotah. Hyder soon after made his appearance, but did not choose to attack him; however, after reconnoitring Wood, he moved off and encamped about twelve miles to the northward. In the morning of the 6th of September, the two English armies joined, and immediately marched, in two divisions, in quest of Hyder; about nine o'clock their advanced guards discovered Hyder's army drawn up in good order; the English advanced to attack him with great briskness, but Hyder soon detached some bodies of horse, which moved round their lines and kept them in play; mean while his artillery and infantry drew off, which they accomplished with
great

great ease; the English continued to pursue them until three o'clock in the afternoon, but to no other purpose, than to convince them that following him was a vain, fruitless attempt, Hyder's cattle being so greatly superior to those of the English, and could march away from them at any time with the greatest facility.

Colonel Wood's line in the pursuit, did not keep that order which they ought to have done: a gun, and two howitzers, with their tumbrils, but lightly guarded, fell behind, the bullocks which drew them being quite exhausted; Hyder observing this, detached a body of horse to the Colonel's rear, charged the party, and cut them to pieces—gunners, lascars, &c. in all about 170 men; and had not the cannon of the Colonel's division been well served, he would have suffered more, for he was some minutes surrounded on all sides. The General sent a party from his division, and recovered the gun and howitzers.

Hyder continued to retreat, after the English army had halted, and encamped about seven miles from them. The next day,

Colonel Wood being much indisposed, General Smith ordered Colonel Lang to take the command of that division, and reinforced him with two more battalions of sepoys, and directed him to pursue Hyder, and bring him to an engagement, if possible. The General marched with his division towards Colar, to receive a large convoy of provisions, and then moved on in quest of Hyder. Colonel Lang still pursued, but in vain, Hyder's cattle being so far superior, as before-mentioned, which enabled him to play with the English as he pleased. Colonel Lang was now obliged to halt for want of rice. On the 15th, the General had advanced as far as Ramasamoodrum, and immediately sent Lang a supply of all the rice he could spare; finding they could not bring Hyder to an engagement, *unless he chose it*, Colonel Lang was left with his division to watch Hyder's motions, that he might not, in the General's absence, attempt any of their possessions; who marched with the rest of the army to escort the Nabob of Arcot, Mahomet Ally, to the pass leading into the Carnatic, his health not permitting him

him to keep the field. At this time some overtures from Hyder, proposing to treat of peace, detained the Nabob, and now the two gentlemen, deputed by the Governor and Council of Madras, to act as Field Deputies, came from Colar, and joined the army, in order to carry on the negociation with more conveniency. Hyder's Vackeel being now in the English camp, who offered, in his master's name, to cede to the English the whole Burmall Valley, and pay down ten lacks of rupees, the General intimated that he should also make the army a present sufficient to reimburse the losses the officers had sustained during the war. This was very short of the demand the Field Deputies made; they wanted the Coimbatore country as well as the Burmall Valley, and to be paid the expence of the war, amounting to upwards of 70 lacks of rupees. These demands Hyder would not agree to, and his Vackeel left the camp. On the 3d of October, Colonel Wood having recovered of his indisposition, had joined his division, which was at this time near the fort of Mulwagle, situated on a high

rock, which the English had got possession of by means of the Killedar's attachment to the Nabob of Arcot, having formerly been in his service, who delivered this place to them, which was the only place of consequence they had got in the Myfore country, as a few men could defend it, and lay very convenient for protecting the convoys from the Carnatic. A company of English sepoy, with a good careful Serjeant, was put in this fort, but, during the absence of the army, in one of their excursions after Hyder, one of the Field Deputies had taken on him to withdraw the Serjeant and the company of sepoy, and to put some recruit sepoy of the Nabob's in the fort, in their place.

A convoy of rice now arriving at Tylar, which Colonel Wood stood in great need of, he marched his division to that place for it. Hyder having intelligence of this, and the weak state that Mulwagle was left in, detached a strong party, who, in the dead of the night, ascended the rock, found the Nabob's sepoy asleep, and got possession of the place. Colonel Wood, as soon as he heard what had happened, marched immediately

diately to Mulwagle, stormed the pettah, and got possession of it; and, at night, ordered the fort on the hill to be attacked by two battalions of sepoy, who were repulsed, with the loss of one of their Captains, a Serjeant Major, and several sepoy killed; the other Captain, with a Lieutenant and several more sepoy, wounded; this was on the third day after the Vackeel left the camp; and, on the fourth, Hyder moved with the whole army to the relief of Mulwagle. On Colonel Wood's first perceiving him, he ordered a picquet to advance, to make what discoveries they could, but they imprudently advanced too far, and were attacked and obliged to retreat near the line; in so doing they lost two guns and their tumbrils, and, to preserve this party, the whole line was obliged to advance; the ground was very rough, being interspersed with numbers of rocks, which the Colonel occupied. Hyder now pressed on with a resolution he had never shewn before, whose horse surrounded his infantry; and threatened to cut down any of the sepoy that gave way, they advanced on the English with eight pieces of

cannon, and a continual loose fire of musquetry; however, the Colonel maintained his position till two o'clock (Hyder having first appeared about ten), when finding Hyder, from his superior numbers, had quite surrounded him, and possessed too much advantage in the ground, he retreated about half a mile to a position more advantageous, resolutely contending with Hyder. During this movement, Hyder continued to press on, his artillery was now become superior to the English, firing from twelve pieces of cannon, some part of them being so close, that the English used their bayonets; the ground was full of rocks, and each being contended for, thus the action continued till near sun-set, when the Captain who had been wounded the night before, and was left with 500 sepoys to keep possession of the pettah, marched out and joined Colonel Wood, beating the grenadiers march: Wood's troops thought they had been the advanced guard of General Smith's division, which put them in such high spirits, that they gave a general huzza. Hyder, who was likewise deceived, ordered his army to retreat

retreat (thus ended this action), leaving Colonel Wood in full possession of the field of battle. Hyder lost about 1,000 men, among whom were some of his best sepoy officers, and a great number of horsemen. Colonel Wood lost two Captains, and two subalterns killed ; one Captain and two subalterns wounded ; about eighty private Europeans, and upwards of 300 Sepoys, killed and wounded, besides some of the Nabob's sepoy.

During this engagement Hyder's artillery was managed with equal skill, and fired as briskly as those of the English, a circumstance never experienced before from any of the country powers ; it was occasioned as follows : some time before the English battalions of sepoy had two small brass three-pounders attached to each battalion, and were managed by sepoy, who were taught by the European gunners, which gave them great confidence, and they became extremely fond of learning the gun exercise, and were almost as expert at it as the Europeans themselves ; many of the English sepoy had deserted to Hyder on account of the scarcity of provisions,

provisions, amongst whom were some of those artillery sepoys, and were the very men that managed his guns in the late engagement.

Hyder now marched his army, and sat down before Margamully; the English army marched in two divisions to its relief, but on their approach, Hyder moved off. As Margamully was thought of that consequence that the army should march to its relief, the General thought proper to put it in a better state of defence than it was before; and clearly perceiving, that to follow Hyder, in order to bring him to a decisive action, was a fruitless attempt, and could answer no end; but, on the contrary, only harrafs and reduce the army, which were already very sickly, and a desertion among the sepoys that grew very alarming, occasioned by the badness and scarcity of rice, resolved therefore to halt the army here, until provisions were put into the fort; which took him from the 19th to the 29th. During this time, he represented to the Field Deputies at Colar, the necessity of adopting some other method of carrying on
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the war ; but they insisted on adhering to the former plan ; he then marched the army again in quest of Hyder, who, at times, would suffer him to come almost within cannon shot of them, and would then move off with ease. Hyder having, by these feints, drawn them to a considerable distance thro' the country, one night moved off with his army to Colar, at which place the Nabob and the two Field Deputies resided, where he cannonaded some sepoy's that were encamped without the fort walls, and drove them in, which greatly alarmed the Deputies and the Nabob. On the 7th of November the army came near Colar, and Hyder retreated as usual ; from the 7th to the 14th nothing was undertaken on account of the heavy rains. On this day the army marched to escort the Nabob to the Carnatic.

The little effect the operations had towards terminating the war, and all the sanguine expectations the Deputies had conceived of reducing the Mysore country, beginning to vanish, they themselves grew odious to the whole army. When a measure

sure happens to miscarry, the person at the head of the executive part is sure to be censured; so it was with the General. The Deputies endeavoured to throw the odium of the failure of their own idle, vain, and indigested plans, on him, who had always been averse to them; and, like all other persons in their situation, wanted to have some other person at the head of the army. In order to do this, they took a most extraordinary step. The Deputies were discontinued, and the General invested with the direction of the army in the Mysore country; provided he would point out any operation that could answer the expences of the war, and would warrant the intention of the Company in undertaking this expedition.

If he would not point out such operation, in that case, to go to Madras, that they might consult him regarding their future operations. It was now too late to invest him with such a power, for they had already overshot themselves, and it was out of his power to point out any method equal to their expectations.

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The General, therefore, agreeable to their orders, left the army to the command of Colonel Wood, which he plainly saw was what they were endeavouring to bring about ; having, from his successes to the southward, conceived an high idea of his abilities.

Hyder, who had more than once punished the Colonel for want of that regularity, which always gave the English army the advantage over his numbers, entertained quite a different opinion of him ; and he had often declared, as reported from good authority, that he would engage Colonel Wood, with the whole of the English army, if he could once meet him at the head of it.

At the time the General marched to escort the Nabob into the Carnatic, he reinforced Wood's division with the 2d regiment of Europeans, and a battalion of sepoys, which made his division at least two thirds of the whole army. The General then proceeded to Madras, and left the command of his division to Major Fitzgerald.

When

When Hyder retreated from Colar, he marched and laid siege to Ouffore, and had raised some batteries against it. When Colonel Wood marched to its relief, he took with him two fine brass eighteen pounders from Colar, and on his arrival at a place called Baugalore, about eighteen miles from Ouffore, he ordered those two guns, with all the stores, baggage, and bazaar, together with all the followers of the army, into the pettah of Baugalore. On his approach to Ouffore, Hyder withdrew from before the place, and made an appearance, as if he intended to come to action; a severe cannonade commenced, but Hyder soon drew off, and taking a circuit, arrived that night at Baugalore, he stormed and got possession of the pettah, and massacred between two and three thousand men, women, and children, took the two eighteen pounders, and all the stores, bazaar, and baggage of the army, with upwards of two thousand draught and carriage bullocks. On intelligence of this, Wood marched back to Baugalore, which he found in a most miserable situation.

Having

Having lost every thing, it became necessary to return to Colar; he therefore marched the next day for that place. On his march thither, Hyder made his appearance, a cannonade ensued, and some musquetry was fired on both sides, but no very close action came on. Hyder had divided his army into small columns, who surrounded them; his artillery likewise played on them from some high grounds, whenever he could bring his guns to bear, and with his horse impeded their march until night, when Hyder drew off his army. The Colonel encamped about three miles from Hyder; and at one o'clock that morning marched again; but Hyder was resolved that he should not give him the slip, so immediately put his troops in motion, and appeared in the Colonel's rear by two o'clock; however, Wood continued his march in two lines, the front and rear guards being ordered to cover the intervals between the two lines, so in fact, they formed an oblong square; what trifling stores they had left, and Morrarow's horse were placed in the centre; Hyder's parties harassed them
all

all round, so that they were forced to keep up a continual fire from their guns and small arms to keep them off. The next day Hyder's parties intercepted them as the day before, and cannonaded them from every high ground they came to; the Colonel's march of course being very slow. About eleven o'clock in the morning, he encamped among some rocks, at the foot of a high range of mountains, forming a strong post, and difficult of access. Hyder, however, got possession of some high ground in the front, and enclosed him in his post, and cannonaded any of his people that shewed themselves from behind the rocks.

Major Fitz-Gerald had marched back from the pass with his division, and an escort of rice, who by his spies had heard of the Baugalore affair, and on his march also heard the cannonading; who, on his arrival at Colar, ordered all his heavy baggage, with the convoy of rice, into that place, and then continued his march to relieve Colonel Wood. On his appearance Hyder drew off his army, and the Major joined Wood the same evening about five o'clock; and

and found him in the greatest distress, being in despair, without provisions, and surrounded by a victorious enemy. Had not the Major so seasonably arrived, some fatal consequences must have ensued. Wood's loss the two days did not amount to more than five European officers killed and wounded, with about twenty-four private Europeans, and two hundred sepoy; but his troops had lost all confidence, and were in the greatest dejection. After getting some supplies from Colar, the whole army once more encamped on the plain, and moved towards Hyder, who by this time had heard that the Nabob had returned to the Carnatic, and that General Smith was called to Madras. Hyder immediately came to a resolution to attempt the recovery of the Burmall Valley, and the Coimbatore countries. While preparations were making for this, Hyder led the English a circuit back by Baugalore, then he crossed the country towards Oussicotah, and from thence to Colar. Things being now prepared he set out on his expedition.

A few days after General Smith's arrival at Madras, he received accounts from Major Fitz-Gerald of the late unhappy affair at Baugalore, &c. This threw the Governor and Council into the greatest consternation, the more so, as they had no accounts from Colonel Wood, whose conduct was now so much disapproved of, that they ordered him to resign the command of the army to Colonel Lang, and forthwith repair to Madras. Lang found himself under great difficulties what measures to pursue; after deliberating some time, he detached Major Fitz-Gerald, with about two-thirds of the effective part of the army, to follow Hyder, who by this time had got nine days start of him.

Before I proceed any farther with this detail, it will be necessary to take some notice of the situation of the southern conquests. At the time those countries fell into the hands of the English, they abounded with the greatest plenty of grain, cattle, and provisions of every kind. Most of the forts in the Valley, and Selim country, were garrisoned by the Nabob's troops, who

were

were very badly paid, and as badly disciplined, and the country put under the direction of his managers ; in the Coimbatore country there were a few of the Company's own troops along with those of the Nabob.

Hyder finding this province was left with so few troops in it, had sent one of his principal officers, Meer Phauzally Cawn, with a detachment, to attempt the recovery of it. He had forced the Guzzatta pass, and had obtained some advantages in the province ; on which some English troops were assembled at Tritchenopoly, and sent for the protection of that country, under the command of Colonel Friesman.

The inhabitants of the fort of Coimbatore, being dissatisfied at the oppression of the Nabob's managers, armed themselves, and massacred the greatest part of the garrison ; amongst those that fell was a Mr. Hamilton, the pay-master. The few that made their escape, were assembled at Erood ; when Colonel Friesman arrived there, he found the garrison without provisions, and by some great mismanagement, the greatest

scarcity of grain in the whole country. The Colonel went immediately to Carrou to procure grain, and finding his health in a bad state, went to Tritchenopoly, and the command rested with Captain Orton.

But to return to Hyder. When he entered the Valley, he spread a report, that the Nabob was run away, and the General gone to Madras; and that he had beaten the English army, and taken their guns; and threatened the severest vengeance on all those who would not submit to his tyranny.

The Nabob's troops, as I have before observed, were badly paid, they therefore made no resistance. On Hyder's appearance amongst them, the forts of Daram-pore, Tingeracotah, Wambanmore, Attoor, Selim, and Nankull, all submitted without firing a gun, or retarding him a day. Hyder then crossed the river Cavery, about thirty miles to the west of Tritchenopoly, and marched to Carrou, which also submitted to him without resistance, from whence he marched to Eroad. On his march thither, a detachment Capt. Orton had sent after provisions, who not having
proper

proper intelligence, fell in with the vanguard of his army unawares. This detachment defended themselves with the greatest bravery imaginable, until the major part of them were cut to pieces, when the surviving few surrendered themselves prisoners of war ; they consisted of fifty Europeans, and five companies of sepoys. The next day Hyder arrived before Erood, and summoned the place ; Capt. Orton having received Hyder's promise to let him return, was foolish enough to go out of the fort himself, to capitulate ; some difficulties arising, he wanted to return, but Hyder detained him. The next morning Captain Orton agreed to terms, and sent orders to the senior officer in command to march out the troops, and deliver up the fort ; which order was obeyed, and the whole were made prisoners. The garrison consisted of two hundred Europeans, two battalions and a half of sepoys, five hundred of the Nabob's horse, and some of his sepoys ; besides the battering train of artillery used by Colonel Wood to reduce this country, consisting of eight pieces of cannon, some mortars, shot and

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shells,

shells, some field pieces, and all the muskets belonging to the three battalions in this province, all which now fell into Hyder's hands.

Major Fitz-Gerald with his division, who had followed Hyder with all possible haste, had the mortification of finding that every fort in his way had surrendered, and was garrisoned by Hyder's troops. On his arrival at Nankull he learnt the fate of Erood ; he therefore moved down to Tritchenopoly, to cover that place, which was, by being drained of almost all its garrison, in danger; and had Hyder, instead of turning to Carrou, gone down to Tritchenopoly, he certainly would have got possession of it. The Major, on his arrival near Tritchenopoly, sent off a battalion of sepoys to Madura, which place was also in want of troops; thus ended the year 1768.

Hyder, after remaining some time at Erood, moved towards the Carnatic, leaving Meer Phauzally Cawn to carry on the war to the southward, and to penetrate into the Madura and Tenevelley countries.

Hyder

Hyder marched by Terriore, which place the Nabob's troops abandoned; and on entering the Tritchenopoly bounds, began to burn, plunder, and destroy every thing in their power. Major Fitz-Gerald, whose party was considerably weakened by detachments, sickness, and desertion, moved towards Outatore, to prevent Hyder's passing to the northward. Hyder, however, soon after appeared near this place, and at night moved off to the eastward.

The Governor and Council of Madras, being now more peaceably inclined, sent a letter to Hyder, offering to treat of peace. Hyder, on his march the day after, passing the Major at Outatore, sent to him, and acknowledged the receipt of the Governor and Councils' letter, and desired he would send some trusty person to him; an officer was accordingly sent. The English army now moved to Volcondah, and Hyder's moved on the banks of the river Coleroon, to the boundaries of the Tanjore country. Hyder now signified to the officer that was sent to him, his readiness to make peace with the English Company, and desired that

a person vested with full power, might be sent to treat with him; and also wrote to the Governor to the same effect. Hyder, however, never ceased burning and destroying the country. While he lay near Tanjore, he obliged the King, (or Rajah) to give him four lacks of rupees, which, as soon as he received, he moved towards Volcondah, still burning the villages wherever his troops appeared. Major Fitz-Gerald was gone nearer Cuddalore for rice. Mr. Andrews, one of the Council, was now appointed to go and treat with Hyder; and the Board prevailed on General Smith to take again the command of the army. Directions were now sent to Major Fitz-Gerald to move towards Chittapet; and also a detachment from Colonel Lang's division to march to the same place, where the General also arrived, and took the command on the 1st of February, 1769. The Council had wrote to Hyder, proposing to him, for the English army to lay near Tiagar, and his to go through the Attoor Pass, during the conference. This Hyder rejected, and sent the Council word, that Wandewash

dewash and Conjeveram would be more convenient. Hyder now made a circuit with his army to the eastward, and then turned towards Pondicherry. The General moved by the way of Ruttlegramon towards him, on which he returned back for Tiagar. The English army being now at Trivenellore, Mr. Andrews came to them at that place, from whence he went to Hyder's camp. The General wrote to Hyder, that if he chose to remain near Tiagar during the conference, he would march the English army to Chittapet, which was accordingly done.

Hyder now in his turn was very high in his demands, whereupon Mr. Andrews agreed to carry those demands to Madras, and that a cessation of arms should take place for twelve days; and it was further agreed, that Hyder's army should lay about half way between Gingee and Pondicherry, and the English army should march to Arcot, or Conjeveram; to which the General objected, that Hyder should be so near Pondicherry, as the French were his friends. However, Hyder moved with his army to
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the part assigned him ; when two French counsellors, with presents from Pondicherry, waited on him, and a grand house was fitted up at that place for the reception of one of his principal officers ; and, during Hyder's stay in the Carnatic, a communication was kept up between him and the French, who bought the cattle, and any thing else his army had plundered the country of ; and likewise furnished him with all the necessaries he wanted.

Hyder's demands not being fully agreed to, the General moved towards him with the English army, and he retreated back to Trivellore ; the General then marched to Ruttlegramon, and detached an escort to Gingee for rice.

Hostilities having commenced afresh, and the whole country in flames, a body of Hyder's horse now hovered round the English, and the only disadvantage they suffered on this account, was the difficulty of obtaining intelligence of Hyder's motions.

Hyder now threatened to set fire to the town of Madras ; that is, what is called
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the Black Town. The General (lest Hyder should give him the slip) ordered Colonel Lang, with his division, to lay 'at Conjeveram, which then consisted only of three hundred Europeans, two battalions of sepoy's, and Morrarow's horse. The day that the aforementioned escort marched to Gingee for rice, Hyder made a forced march from Trivallore, and arrived near Perma-coil. The General, who had intelligence of him that night about one o'clock, immediately marched after him, and about nine o'clock in the morning, discovered Hyder's army on their march towards Alam-purvey. Hyder was much disconcerted at his being discovered, and seemed undetermined whether he should turn towards Pondicherry, or continue his route to the northward; he at length continued the latter. The English had a long march, and it was so very hot, that it was necessary to encamp during the heat of the day. About four in the evening they marched again, taking their route by Carrangooley; and about ten in the evening received some account of Hyder's route; who, after continuing it about

about eight miles north on the Madras road, suddenly changed it, and struck off to the left, up the country; Hyder being apprehensive, that if he kept the lower road towards Madras by the sea-side, he should be forced into an action, or, in all probability, lose all his baggage. As Hyder had changed his route, and taken the upper road towards Madras, the English army moved on towards Conjeveram, to support Lang's division, which was very weak, in case he should come that way. Hyder moved towards Arcot, and suddenly changed his route to Gingee. The General then moved to Wandewash, and directed Lang to follow with his division. During this, a detachment had arrived at Madras from the Circars, which was thought a sufficient defence for the Black Town. Colonel Lang was now ordered with his division to Trinomally, and to intercept the intercourse between Hyder's army and the Myfore country.

'Hyder now marched' towards Cuddalore and threatened that place, and some of his parties absolutely entered the bounds, but did little damage. On the appearance of the

General

General with his army, Hyder moved to Villeporam, and the General followed him as far as Rambacum, where he received intelligence that Hyder, at the head of 6,000 horse, and a few of his best sepoy, had marched that morning and passed through Trivanallore, and that the rest of his army, with all his bazaar and baggage, with the sick and wounded were ordered to go by Tiagar, and proceed through the Attoor Pass; the General then ordered Colonel Lang to try to cut off this party, if possible, and prevent them from entering the Pass: the General then took the nearest route for Madras.

Hyder marched with his party from Villeporam to Tennevannum before he halted, being forty-five miles, and arrived at St. Thomas's Mount, about seven miles west of Madras, on the 29th of March. He immediately wrote to the Governor, acquainting him, that he was come in person to treat of peace, and desired that Mr. Dupre might be sent out to him, and that the Governor would send immediate orders to stop General Smith
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with his army from approaching near Madras.

Hyder, in this last undertaking, laid himself more open than he imagined, or had done, during the whole war; as he knew nothing of Colonel Lang's moving towards Trichenopoly, otherwise he never would have sent his cannon, &c. the route he had done; but, by good luck, they escaped through the Pass.

When Hyder arrived at St. Thomas's Mount, he had marched 130 miles in three days and a half; his horses and men consequently were greatly fatigued. The English had then doing duty in Madras about 400 Europeans and 2,300 sepoys, and a field train of artillery ready fitted; nevertheless, the Governor and Council, instead of ordering out those troops to attack Hyder, which they might have done on the first night with safety, while his people were so very much fatigued, sent a peremptory order for the General to halt his army wherever that order should meet him. Mr. Dupre accordingly attended Hyder's summons at the Mount, and Hyder forwarded the Governor

vernor and Councils' order to General Smith, by one of his own Carnatic hircarrs, or spies, who, mistaking the road the General was advancing on, did not deliver the letter to him until he arrived at Vandalore the 31st of March, about ten miles from the Mount. Hyder was much alarmed at his near approach, and desired that the General might be ordered back at the distance of twelve cofs, or thirty-six miles from him. The Madras Board sent an order accordingly; but the General, not thinking proper to comply with it, remained with the army where he was. Hyder finding the General would not move off, and not thinking it safe to stay himself so near, he marched his party about eight miles to the north west of Madras; and the Board not knowing his intentions, wrote to the General to move nearer with the army with the greatest expedition; the General obeyed; but the Board being informed by Hyder, that he had only shifted his party to a more convenient spot of ground, the General had another order to halt, which he did near the Mount.

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The treaty of peace was soon concluded; and, on the 4th of April, 1769, was signed and sealed, which redounded to Hyder's honor, who, at the head of a few horse, could dictate to the Board of Madras, and force them into his own terms; had they abided by the opinion of General Smith, who was for carrying on the war a little longer, as he well knew, by experience, and the knowledge he possessed of Hyder's affairs, which were then in a desperate situation, so that he could not possibly have remained any time in the Carnatic, and, of course, would have been glad to have accepted of any terms, they might have made a more honourable peace.

Hyder Ally having made a peace with the English, as before noticed, enjoyed himself in perfect tranquillity, until the year 1770. During this interval, he got the affairs of his country regulated, and every thing tolerably well settled.

As happiness in this life is but of short duration, so it happened to Hyder. In the latter end of the year 1770, he was visited by an army of Mahrattas, consisting of

60,000

60,000 horse and about 20,000 infantry, with a few small field pieces, very badly manned, under the command of Trimbuch Mama, uncle to the Peshwar, or chief Mahratta, as Mahaderow, the other chief, was left at Poona, their capital, in ill health.

Trimbuch Mama, as he marched through the further parts of Hyder's dominions, seized on every fort situate in the plains, except Bangalore, and carried fire and sword through every district, to the utter ruin of the miserable inhabitants.

Hyder, too weak in cavalry to oppose this torrent, contented himself with securing a strong position, a few miles from Srirangapatam, his capital. His army then consisting of about 8,000 choice cavalry, 13,000 sepoy, well armed with European firelocks, and an exceeding good train of field artillery well appointed. Here he watched every opportunity of falling on the Mahratta detachments, who were foraging and plundering, and he generally gained advantage from these exploits.

Morrarow, an old Mahratta chief, who was, in the late war, in alliance with the

English (and whose camp Hyder stormed), did not forget his treatment; having now joined his army to that of Trimbuch Mama, and offered 10,000 rupees to any one of his men that would bring Hyder's head to him.

Morrarow had strenuously advised Trimbuch Mama to send forward these detachments near Seringapatam, by way of lure to Hyder, in order to encourage him to leave the strong position he had remained in for near eight months. This succeeded to their wish; Hyder, though wary enough at other times, was now thrown off his guard; for he being elated with the several late trifling successes over the Mahrattas' small detachments, was, by degrees, drawn to a considerable distance from his capital; from whence he drew all his provisions. This was just what the Mahrattas wanted. Trimbuch embraced the opportunity, and immediately detached a powerful body of his troops to get between Hyder and Seringapatam, while the main of the army hovered round his front, so that he could not move without being discovered. Provision in his camp now grew scarce, and he found, when

too late, that he had been decoyed beyond the line of prudence, and no alternative remained but to give them the slip, if possible, or to fight his way back ; the first was scarcely to be done, as the number of parties the Mahrattas had out, night and day, made it next to a miracle for him to escape.

It being now September 1771, Hyder having made the necessary dispositions of his army, and formed the whole in a square, began his march about midnight, and entered early in the morning on a plain, at some miles distant from his capital. The Mahrattas were round him as soon as day dawned, and harraſſed him without intermiſſion ; this occaſioned many halts, but the vivacity of his guns kept the Mahrattas at a diſtance, until he had proceeded a conſiderable length. Unfortunately for Hyder, in his front, at ſome diſtance, ſtood a large rock in the plain, and his infantry being tired at the frequent charges repeatedly made by the Mahratta cavalry, and the front of his column thinking they could gain the rock in ſafety, ſet their faces towards it with a very quick ſtep. Hyder ſaw, in the in-

stant, the fatal consequences of this rash movement, and exerted every power to prevent it, but in vain ; for the men, dead to his reproaches, his intreaties, and threats, moved on hastily, his column became open in several places, and the rear, even at a run, could not keep up.

The Mahrattas no sooner perceived the confusion of Hyder's troops, than the whole body of their cavalry charged him sword in hand, and, in a few minutes, Hyder's army were cut in pieces, except a few, with whom he made his escape to Seringapatam. All his baggage, guns, camp equipage—his best officers, and 13,000 of his veteran infantry, fell a sacrifice to the indiscretion and want of fortitude in the van of his column ; for had they persisted in moving on in close order, in all probability they would have reached their destination.

This was a terrible blow to Hyder, who found himself under the walls of his capital, without an army, without resources, and without an ally or friend, to whom he could look to for aid in this most critical hour of his life ; but despondency was ever a stranger

to him, and though he saw himself cooped up in his capital, his country intirely desolated by the enemy, and most of his forts in their possession, still he did not give way to despair, but placed his confidence in that fortune which had ever supported him in many trying and almost insurmountable difficulties.

The Mahrattas followed him close, and shut him up in Seringapatam ; that was all they could do : for, having neither the art, or materials, for carrying on a siege, they could only blockade the city, and prevent provision, or troops, from entering it.

In these circumstances, Trimbuch Mama wrote, in the most pressing terms, to the Nabob of the Carnatic, and to Mr. Dupre, then Governor of Madras, for a body of English troops and great guns, to reduce Hyder's capital, and entirely to crush him.

The Nabob most strenuously supported the request of Trimbuch, but Mr. Dupre opposed it, on the faith of the late treaty of peace concluded with Hyder in 1769 ; who also called on Mr. Dupre for assistance against the Mahrattas, who, for very good reasons,

wrote fair letters to each, but resolved to aid neither.

The Mahrattas, who, for near two years, had carried fire and sword into every part of Hyder's dominions, and, by these means, had driven the inhabitants from the whole country, found themselves extremely distressed for provisions; and, finding no hopes of any succours from the Carnatic, withdrew their army from before Seringapatam, and retired northward, crossed the river Kistna, and so on to their own country, where Mahaderow's death soon happened, and occasioned such civil dissensions amongst the chiefs of Poona as did not subside for many years; and to these civil broils and discords of the Mahrattas, Hyder was indebted for all his succeeding glory.

The instant the Mahrattas turned their backs on him, he moved out of Seringapatam with what force he could collect, and marched towards Bangalore, gathering reinforcements as he proceeded, from those few forts, which, from their situation on mountains, had escaped the enemy.

. He

He then, in turn, attacked those forts : the Mahrattas had possessed themselves of, so that in a little time he rid his country of these destructive freebooters.

By these means he soon restored tranquillity to his territories, and, after giving every encouragement to the miserable inhabitants, to return and rebuild their villages, and to commence the cultivation of their lands, turned his whole thoughts towards his army, in order to get it reinstated as soon as possible.

It is astonishing to relate, that only after a few years peace, this man, from his abilities and perseverance, had raised a body of troops almost surpassing credit ; viz.

C A V A L R Y.

	Men.
Those mounted on his own horses	8,000
Hired, who found their own horses	12,000

S E P O Y S.

Armed, cloathed, and officered with Europeans, and guns attached to them	20,000
--	--------

European deserters of divers nations 114

Matchlock men and peons	-	10,000
Rocket men	- - -	6,000
Black artillery men	- -	700
Brass field guns	- - -	40
Camels for carrying rockets	-	500
Elephants	- - -	200
Draught and carriage bullocks	without number.	

S E P O Y S in the different Garrisons.

		Men.
In Seringapatam	- -	3,000
Biddanore and district	- -	5,000
Bengalore	- - -	3,000
Dindegull	- - -	1,000

Exclusive of many other forts, the strength of which I have not been able to ascertain. The above account of Hyder's force was in the year 1775, from which time, until the year 1780, an uninterrupted peace reigned throughout Hyder's dominions.

The latter end of July 1780, Hyder entered the Carnatic, and on the 29th of that month he detached a considerable body of horse and looteys, who, by forced marches, surprized and plundered Porto Novo (which place has always been deemed a free port for all

all nations) without distinction of nation, or cast—carried away prisoners the Dutch and Danish Residents, which plainly marked his principal intent to extirpate all Europeans from the peninsula of India; this, I am confident in opinion, was his motive for undertaking this war. This surprize at Porto Novo spread a general alarm throughout the whole Coast of Coromandel, and created a complete scene of confusion. Nay, even the Nabob of Arcot's Killedars, or Governors, were panic struck at Hyder's being in the Carnatic, especially those in command of the following frontier garrisons; viz. Trinomally, Chittaputt, Arnee, Dobygurr, Chuckleyputt, &c. likewise Carrangoley and Chilembrum, near the coast, were immediately surrendered with the garrisons, without the least resistance; and, in that remarkable strong hold Gingee, where an European officer was stationed with one company of sepoy, he was absolutely fired on by the Nabob's people, who had fled from an attack that was made on the lower fort, as he was making his way to the upper fort for its defence; by these proceedings, it

is obvious, that those villains the Killedars, were bribed by Hyder ; the chief Pollygars of Worriapollam and Arrialôre also joined him.

In the mean time, while Hyder was ravaging the country, and making conquest of the aforefaid places, the English were collecting all their force under the command of Sir Hector Munro at Conjeveram.

The 8th of September 1780, Major General Sir Hector Munro had intelligence of a detachment coming from the northward under Colonel Bailley, to join his army at Conjeveram, and were already arrived at Perambaucam ; part of Hyder's army being then encamped nearly in the route by which Colonel Bailey's detachment should come, under the command of Tippoo Saib. On the evening of that day, the General ordered a detachment to march under Colonel Fletcher, in order to meet and reinforce Colonel Bailley, consisting of one light infantry, and three European grenadier companies, a sepoy company of marksmen, and ten sepoy grenadier companies ; as also some camels loaded with gun ammunition, who
had

had the good fortune to arrive safe before morning at Perambaucam, and joined Colonel Bailey ; the arrival of this strong reinforcement spread the greatest confidence through Bailey's camp, and no doubt was entertained of their being able to make their way good to Conjeveram. Colonel Bailey marched on the evening of the 9th, about eight o'clock, in the following order ; viz. The company of marksmen formed the advanced guard ; the main body, composed of the Europeans, making six companies of grenadiers, light infantry and battalion men, with the ten sepoy grenadier companies formed into two battalions, and two battalions of sepoys ; one battalion of six companies covered the doolies baggage and stores upon the left flank, and six companies of sepoy grenadiers composed the rear guard ; the field pieces, being six pounders, except four three pounders, were equally divided along the line, except two guns that were with the rear guard. The whole was in number about 3,500, under Colonel Bailey's command, who, previous to the march, directed, that all orders from Lieutenant Colonel

Colonel Fletcher were to be obeyed. The detachment marched in sub-divisions.

About half a mile from Perambaucani, they fell in with a small party of Hyder's horse on a plain, which was fired upon, and dispersed by a platoon from the advanced guard, after it had repeatedly challenged the detachment. This gave the alarm to Tippoo Saib, whose camp was close by, and from whom indeed it was otherwise impossible*to conceal their march, as he had many small picquets on the look out. Their rocket men, and other irregular rabble, then came upon their flanks, who were drove off from time to time by the flank guards.

In this manner the detachment proceeded for five or six miles, when some horse appeared on their left, near their rear guard, on which they were fired upon with the two guns. The front of the line had just then entered an avenue, through which their road lay, and Colonel Bailey ordering a halt, and facing to the right about, formed to the rear, except the advanced guard, which still kept its front.

The

The baggage, &c. with its covering, battalions passing over from the left to the right flank; Hyder's people disappearing again, and there being no future sign of any attack on that quarter, the troops returned nearly to their former order of march, but the halt was continued. They were a very short time in this position, when some of Hyder's guns opened upon their left, nearly opposite their centre; on which five companies of sepoy grenadiers, under Capt. Rumley, advanced out of the line to take them, but they being stopped by a water course which run parallel to the line, that attempt was desisted from. The fire being now returned from the guns of the line, although sufficiently near, did little execution, and was irregularly continued, as Hyder's guns being several times shifted, and they soon ceased firing. The escort with the baggage having, by some mistake, moved on from the right flank, whilst the line was halted, it required some time to bring it back to its proper station. During this interval, from some false alarm, a division upon the left of the line fired, and the

the fire ran along to the right through the whole line, without any word of command from any officer, although no enemy was in view. This is one of those accidents which sometimes happen in the best disciplined armies, and is hard to be accounted for. This firing was soon put a stop to.

A body of Hyder's infantry that lay concealed in the water course, or close behind it, and near the head of their line, and seemingly placed there by way of ambuscade, being now discovered, and fired on by their flank guards, were obliged to retreat in confusion.

The baggage had by this time returned to their proper place, and nothing now prevented the detachment from proceeding, which, from the guns being limbered again, appeared to be Colonel Bailey's intention; but he, contrary to the declared opinion of Colonel Fletcher, took the most fatal resolution of remaining where he was all night.

The causeless firing, that had happened in the line, and the baggage with its escort having gone astray in the dark, might possibly be his reasons, as he was heard to say,
that

that he wished for day-light. He accordingly made a disposition, and they lay on their arms until day break, unmolested by the enemy; who, no doubt, employed this interval, which was for them most lucky, in preparing to annoy them, when they could do it more effectually.

Next morning, being the 10th, they marched again before sun-rise, much in the same order as before. Tippoo Saib, with his army, were soon perceived upon the left, through some trees and under-wood, moving abreast of them, with some parties of horse in Bailley's front, and on his right flank. The detachment proceeded near two miles in the avenue, when upon its entering an open plain, on which the road turned off to the left, four or five of Tippoo Saib's guns opened from that quarter, though at a considerable distance. On this Bailley again halted, and ordered the cannonade to be returned, whilst the troops remained in crowded order, partly in the avenue, and partly under cover of some banks, and a hollow way at the entrance of the plain; Tippoo Saib's rocket men
advancing,

advancing, as usual, and his main body keeping at a great distance among some trees and underwood, in the rear of their guns. In a few minuets after this, Col. Bailey ordered out Captain Rumley, with the two sepoy grenadier battalions, (ten companies) to advance and take these guns; they accordingly marched out, and Colonel Fletcher ordered a battalion of sepoys to support them; but this was countermanded by Bailey, and the company of sepoy marksmen only, which formed the advanced guard, was, after some little time, dispatched after them. About the time the grenadier sepoys had reached and taken the nearest gun, from which and the two next, the enemy fled at their approach; Captain Rumley himself being then out of breath, sent on Captain Gowdie, with the front battalion, to take the others; and when the officer of the marksmen came up, he found the rear battalion halted, and in ~~unmolested~~ possession of three guns, none of the enemy being near; he therefore drew up his company at the first gun, to which, in a minute or two, Captain Rumley came back himself,

himself, and the grenadiers nearest to it fell back, crowding in disorder, but from what cause he knew not. A little before this, and after the grenadiers and marksmen had been detached, Hyder's main army was perceived in full march towards Bailey's right, and his headmost body of horse coming on, made an irregular charge on the line. Capt. Rumley and the officer of the marksmen were then at the nearest gun, and the former, probably from an apprehension of being cut off from the main body, ordered a retreat to a water-course that lay between them and the line. The marksmen and a party of the sepoy grenadiers that had been drawn up at the gun, accordingly moved that way, but the rest of the sepoy grenadiers crowding upon them from behind, soon put their ranks in disorder, and that part of the water-course they came to being a deep cut, the sepoys as they reached it, leaped in, and scrambling up the opposite side, stepped forward as they got out to regain the line. Thus the whole party got by degrees in a confused run, it not being in the power of the officers to prevent it,

and its rear being pressed upon by Tippoo Saib's horse, who pursued upon seeing the disorder; they, however, were stopped by the water-course, but a few of them getting round the end of it, came in time enough to cut down several of the sepoy grenadiers, before they could reach the line; and the guns that were taken, being thus abandoned, were immediately repossessed by Tippoo Saib's people. The advanced body of horse from Hyder's own army, had been repulsed before the grenadier's returned; these soon got into order again, and took their station in their line. Hyder's army was then fast approaching upon Colonel Bailey's right flank; but though a sufficient space intervened, during which there was no cannonade, nor body of horse on the plain near enough to interrupt or prevent it, no manœuvre was undertaken, or any other disposition made, but the detachment remained crowded up in the same manner as it entered the plain, the troops not having room even to use their arms freely, and part of one battalion was obliged to move out of the line altogether, most of the corps
being

being now in a setting posture, and the baggage, doolies, &c. confusedly scattered about. It may be here remarked, that no attempt was made to reconnoitre the ground. There was a village in sight, that lay on the road about half a mile in front, and nothing could have prevented them from gaining it, and taking post there, had they marched any time before the arrival of Hyder's army, as the water-course before mentioned would have covered their left flank, as the avenue might their right, had they been drawn out in order of battle; but nothing was done, no measure taken, either for offence or defence. Hyder's van was soon within cannon shot, and his foremost guns opened immediately; as did about the same time, those that Tippoo Saib had retaken, and the rest of Hyder's as they came up, until there was upwards of fifty brought to bear upon this poor detachment, devoted to destruction. Colonel Bailey's ten guns returned this unequal fire, until their ammunition was exhausted; and this was hastened by the blowing up of two tumbrils of fixed ammunition, which laid open

one intire face of their column, destroyed their artillery, and threw the whole into irreparable confusion.

Tippoo Saib, observing this accident, took immediate advantage thereof, and with his cavalry made a rapid charge, penetrated their broken square, and being followed by the French corps, and the infantry of his first line, compleated the overthrow of this gallant little band. Their sepoy's being mostly cut to pieces, while Colonel Bailey, although much wounded, rallied his Europeans, and once more formed them into a square, under the fire of the whole of Hyder's cannon.

With this handful of men he gained a small eminence on the plain; where, without ammunition, and most of his men grievously wounded, he resisted and repulsed thirteen separate attacks; but fresh bodies of horse continually pouring in, they were borne down by numbers, without giving way, and trod under foot by the elephants and horse.

This victory cost the Myfore army very dear, as the slaughter of their best troops
was

was immense ; and nothing but the accident of the tumbrils could have saved Hyder from a total defeat. Had the good genius of the English brought up their troops from Conjeveram, during the battle, the Mysore army must have been inevitably ruined—not one battalion of foot, or a single gun, would have probably escaped.

Hyder, with his whole army, returned to his camp at Damul, distant about six miles from the place of action. All the prisoners that could be moved were carried thither ; though many of the wounded, and amongst these some officers, remained on the ground, after being stripped by the plunderers, to perish miserably. Hyder, soon after he arrived in his camp, had Colonel Bailey and the rest brought before him, as they came in, ordering rewards to those who took them. Some of the heads of the slain, which was presented before him, though to say the truth, he seemed to take no great pleasure in this horrid spectacle, but rather shewed displeasure, when any of the prisoners were

brought in, all over mangled and covered with wounds. The wounded were dressed by his surgeons, and such assistance and accommodation afforded to all the prisoners, as could be expected in a barbarian camp. They were lodged that night in tents, and carried next day to his fixed camp at Muslevawk, where he moved with his army, after sending off a strong body of horse and foot, under a Monsieur Lally, to harraßs General Munro, who, upon the news of Colonel Bailey's destruction, had, upon the night of the 10th, retreated to Chinglepett. The prisoners remained at Muslevawk until the 14th, being visited by the French gentlemen in Hyder's service; and were that day sent off with strong escorts, except Colonel Bailey, and seven other officers of senior rank, who were kept in Hyder's camp.

Twenty-six wounded officers, and the wounded non-commissioned officers and private men, were put into the fort of Arnee; twenty-four, with the rest of the non-commissioned and private, being all that was able to march, proceeded to Bengulore,

gulore, where the officers, and such of the men, as were unable to go farther, were kept, the rest going on to Seringapatam. Those left at Arnee, were afterwards sent to Seringapatam as fast as they recovered, except three or four of the officers, and a great number of the men, who died of their wounds. Colonel Bailey and the others, who were left in Hyder's camp, were likewise, in a few months, sent thither. As for the black officers and sepoy's that were taken, many of them entered into Hyder's service, and the rest, after some time, were set at liberty.

Particulars of the Number Killed, Wounded, and taken Prisoners, viz.

Killed on the Field of Action.

Lieutenant-Colonel	-	1
Captains	-	3
Lieutenants	-	3
Ensigns	-	18
Lieutenant Fire-Worker	-	1
Cadet	-	1
Surgeon	-	1
		— 28

H r

Died

Brought forward 25

Died of their Wounds soon afterwards.

Captain	-	-	1
Lieutenants	-	-	2
Ensigns	-	-	2
Lieutenant Fire-Worker	-	-	1
Cadet	-	-	1
Surgeon	-	-	1
			<hr/> 8

Wounded and Taken,

Lieutenant-Colonel	-	-	1
Captains	-	-	6
Lieutenants	-	-	13
Ensigns	-	-	9
Cadets	-	-	4
Surgeon	-	-	1
			<hr/> 34

Not Wounded,

Captains	-	-	2
Lieutenants	-	-	5
Ensigns	-	-	6
Volunteer	-	-	1
Cadet	-	-	1
Assistant Surgeon	-	-	1
			<hr/> 16

Total 86

Nothing

Nothing could surpass the hardy, desperate valour, displayed by this handful of Englishmen and sepoy, in this general massacre. Officers and men seemed determined to sell their lives as dear as possible; and although left without a single gun, and their ammunition expended, the officers with their swords, and the privates with their bayonets, atchieved prodigies of valour; which Hyder's people speak of with astonishment. They say, that many of the English, after they were cut down and miserably wounded, refused quarter, and raised themselves from the ground, to push with their bayonets to the very last.

Their disaster was occasioned by a quantity of loose ammunition, brought by Col. Fletcher's reinforcement, blowing up, which communicated to the two tumbrils of the line.

The English army having sustained this heavy loss, were not able to oppose that of Hyder, who, with impunity, traversed the southern part of the Carnatic.

In April, 1781, Hyder invested the fort of Tiagar, situate on a high rock, and almost

most impregnable, which place was forced to surrender to him, entirely owing to the want of provisions.

After which Hyder entered the Tanjore country, plundering and burning every village in their way; spreading desolation every where; even the Gentoo temples, which hitherto were held sacred by all casts, were plundered of their swamies, or idols, by his people of the Moorish sect.

About this time, a Gentoo subidar, or captain in his service, requested his permission to bear a Gentoo flag, with the figure of the Swamie Annamoontoo on it. On which, Hyder desired to know who this Annamoontoo was; in the course of the subidar's narration, he said Annamoontoo was born of a man; Hyder then observed, his father was certainly the devil, to which the subidar assenting, Hyder ordered a flag to be made, with the figure of a devil evacuating Annamoontoo from behind, which he shrewdly observed, was the only aperture he could escape at; and obliged that subidar's company to bear it. The same
flag

flag was afterwards taken from them by the English, near Negapatam,

In June, Hyder marched towards Tritchenopoly, and, by the latter end of that month, he made forced marches until he came near the English army, then under the command of General Coote, near Porto Novo, imagining the business was compleated as he had in view, that of drawing the English army to the south of Cuddalore, where he did not suppose there would be a probability of their escaping total destruction.

June 30th, Hyder being now within sight of the army under General Coote, made every preparation in order to attack him; but early the next morning, the 1st of July, 1781, he perceived the English army advancing with the same intent to attack him, though consisting only of 1,500 Europeans and 7,000 sepoy. The two armies met, and engaged between Porto Novo and Mootiapollam.

The engagement lasted eight hours, and it was a hard-fought day on both sides. Hyder's army consisted this day of 25 battalions of infantry, 400 Europeans, 40,000 horse,

horse, and about 100,000 matchlock men, peons, and polygars, with 47 pieces of cannon well-served. The second line of the English army having occupied some heights, by which their rear was secured, General Coote advanced with the first line towards Hyder's guns, many of which must have been taken, if the English had had a body of cavalry; Hyder made repeated attempts to force the English lines, and kept up a severe cannonade, which, for a long time, the heavy fires of the English could not silence, till at length he was obliged to give way to their superior spirit, and steadiness of their small numbers, comparatively speaking to his, and left them masters of the field. Meer Saib (Hyder's favourite General) received a mortal wound; and, among 4,000 killed, were many of his principal officers. The English lost very few officers, but had between three and 400 men killed. Thus ended this glorious battle, which day should be a jubilee to all European nations, who have any possessions in India; they may consider it as that on which their fate in India totally depended. Had that day been lost,

lost, I verily believe we should have been deprived of all our possessions in that country.

In the beginning of August, General Coote's army was reinforced by a detachment from Bengal, consisting of 5,000 men, mostly sepoys, which was a very seasonable supply; he was then encamped at the Mount, above nine miles from Madras.

I shall now leave him and return to the southward, where Major General Sir Hector Munro, K. B. was ordered into the Tanjore country, to take the command of the Company's troops, who were to co-operate with his Majesty's squadron under the command of Sir Edward Hughes, in the attack of Negapatam, who was in hopes of soon reducing it, although the garrison was reinforced by a large detachment of Hyder's troops, and the fortifications considerably strengthened by new works. Sir Hector joined the Company's troops at Nagore, on the coast, by the 21st of October: a corps of marines, consisting of 443, officers included, landed from the squadron and joined him; the next day a battalion of seamen landed,

landed, consisting of 827 men, officers included; also 16 eighteen pounders and two twelves, with two 10-inch, and six 5 and 1-half inch mortars, with a proportionable number of shot, shells, powder, and every essential store, was landed from the squadron on rafts made for that purpose. On the night of the 29th, the strong lines which the enemy had thrown up, flanked by redoubts, to cover and defend the approach to the town, were stormed and carried, in which the seamen and marines bore a principal part. On the 3d of November, General Munro opened ground against the north face of Negapatam, and the approaches were carried on with great rapidity, the squadron laying off the fort to cover the attack. On the 7th, a battery of 10 eighteen pounders, within three hundred paces of the walls of the place, being ready to open, Sir Edward Hughes and Sir Hector Munro thought proper to send the Dutch Governor the following summons :

Camp

H Y D E R A L L Y. 127.

Camp before Negapatam, Nov. 7, 1781.

S I R,

AS we are perfectly informed of the weakness of the town and citadel of Negapatam, and the smallness of the garrison you have to defend it, against the ships and troops of his Britannic Majesty, and the East-India Company under our command, of whose great superiority, in proportion, numbers, and discipline, you cannot be ignorant.

We are induced from motives of humanity, in order to avoid the effusion of blood, and of regard to you and the inhabitants of the place, to prevent, if in our power, the distresses and calamities that may befall you and them, to demand of you the immediate surrender of the place, on such terms as appear to us reasonable and consistent, and you and we may agree upon; for this purpose we give two hours from the time this summons is delivered to you, to deliberate on an answer: if you agree to surrender on capitulation, Commissioners are immediately to be sent on your part to the General in camp; but if you reject the offer now made you, the batteries will immediately open against

against your walls, and you will yourself be the cause of more disadvantageous terms on a latter day. We have the honour to be, with great regard, &c. &c.

(Signed)

EDWARD HUGHES,

HECTOR MUNRO.

TO REYNER VAN VLISSENGEN, Governor of Negapatam.

The Governor being indisposed, they received from the second in command, the following answer :

To the Honourable Sir EDWARD HUGHES, K. B. Vice Admiral of the Blue, Commander of his Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces, and the Honorable Sir HECTOR MUNRO, Commander of his Britannic Majesty's Military Forces, &c. &c.

S I R S,

I Have had the honor, just now, to receive the letter you was pleased to write me, containing the summation to deliver over this place.

And as I am obliged, by honor and oath, to defend this place with all my power, I
cannot

cannot enter into any agreement regarding the surrendering of the same, but shall, when you resolve to attack me, defend myself with the forces that I have on hand.

I have the honor to be,

S I R S,

With great respect,

Your most humble obedient servant,

By the indisposition of the Governor, (Signed) MOSSÉLL.

Negapatam, Nov. 7, 1781.

During the course of the siege, the enemy made two desperate sallies with the greater part of the garrison, but were both times beat back into the town with much loss.

In the afternoon of the 10th, the breaching battery being ready, four 18-pounders were got into it, and opened on the face of the bastion intended to be breached, with good effect; in the night four more 18-pounders were got into the same battery, and all opened on the breached bastion at day-light, and soon after the enemy demanded a parley, and sent out two Commis-

sioners to the General in camp with terms of capitulation. In the mean time, hostilities ceased on both sides; and, early on the morning of the 12th, Sir Edward Hughes landed and came to camp, and, with the General, Sir Hector Munro, received the Commissaries there about ten o'clock, when the capitulation was agreed to, and after being sent into the town to be ratified by the Governor and his Council, was countersigned by Sir Edward Hughes and Sir Hector Munro, at two o'clock, and the gates of both town and citadel were put in possession of the English troops.

I shall only take notice of the 20th article of the capitulation, which immediately concerns Hyder's troops; viz.

Art. XX. To all the aid troops belonging to the Nabob Hyder Ally Cawn Bahauder, which are in this place, a free pass to Combiconum shall be granted.

Answered. Granted, on delivering up their arms, and proceeding to Hyder's country, not to Combiconum.

The

The garrison consisted in all of about 8,000 men, of which about 500 Europeans, regulars, and militia, 700 malays, 4,500 sepoy, and 2,300 of Hyder's troops, of whom 1,000 were cavalry, and run away on the first charge at the attack of the enemy's lines, and never came near the place after, but kept at a distance, plundering and burning the villages; and most of the malays and sepoy threw away their arms, and deserted the garrison through the western gate, in the night between the 11th and 12th, during the truce.

The killed and wounded, during this short siege, were very inconsiderable.

A detachment of the Company's troops were sent on board the squadron, to go with Sir Edward Hughes to Trincomale, in order to reduce it, to which place he failed immediately, on adjusting matters at Negapatam, where General Munro remained with the Company's troops.

Dec. 1781. The Governor of Bombay had now sent a strong reinforcement of troops to Tellicherry, which place was then besieged by Hyder's troops, where they ar-

rived about the 30th ; and Major Abingdon, with those, and a part of their former garrison, marched out from the Brás Pagoda, the 8th of January 1782, across the Paddy Fields to the eastward, passed two of Hyder's advanced posts, and got round to the eastward of Great Putney Hill, between that and Ponnolla Mella. The advanced party under Captain Whippey, immediately attacked, stormed, and took the former, without the loss of a man on his side. The main body immediately pushed for Hyder's camp, and came upon them just at day-break, whom they fell on and put to the route ; when they followed them to the southward as far as Currachee, a small fort about one mile to the northward of Michie River ; this post they presently carried, and turned its guns upon them, who were making their way towards the river. Saddos Cawn (Hyder's brother-in-law and General, who commanded this army) had made this post his head-quarters, quitted it, and got to a fortified house, enclosed within walls, where he, with several of his people, made an obstinate defence ; but at last the roof of the
house

house was set on fire, which obliged them to quit it, when many were killed endeavouring to make their escape. Saddos Cawn had secreted himself in part of the enclosure, which was bomb-proof, cut into the hill, where he and his family were found; himself had been wounded by a musquet-ball in the ankle, and was not able to move; they were all immediately seized, and sent in prisoners to Tellicherry, with about 1,500 prisoners, which had been made during the morning; there was about 400 of them killed and drowned. The English had about 50 killed and wounded, and only one officer hurt; they took six brass field-pieces, about 60 iron cannon, with four mortars: also 13 elephants, and a large quantity of powder, shot, and other stores, in their redoubts and batteries.

The same evening, about seven o'clock, Lieut. Hodges was sent away with a strong detachment against Fort George, of which the enemy getting intelligence, they evacuated it, and he took quiet possession thereof.

About two o'clock in the morning a strong party was sent over the river, and took possession of Mihie; and another party, under Captain Whippey, went and took possession of Durmapatam, which island they found deserted by the enemy. In short, there was not a man of Hyder's left between Cotta Point, five leagues to the southward, and to the northward as far as Cannanore.

I must now return to take notice of the army under General Coote, which had been reinforced by a detachment from Bengal, as before noticed; his next object was to march, in order to relieve Wandewash, which was invested by a strong detachment under Hyder's son, Tippoo Saib, who had begun to raise batteries, and to make other necessary preparations for a siege.

The General's movements had the desired effect, as Tippoo Saib, upon hearing of his approach, drew off, and took the route by Gingee, by which road Hyder had moved towards Arcot, which place he also took without opposition.

On the 20th of August the General marched and sat down before Tripassore, and

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on the 23d in the morning, it surrendered on terms of capitulation. This acquisition of consequence, and happening at the time it did, was a most fortunate one, as the advance of Hyder's army coming to the relief of the besieged, had, in that very moment, appeared in fight, and there only remained in camp one day's rice.

By means of the Paddy found in the fort, he was enabled to serve out a few days subsistence to the troops; and hearing that Hyder was in full force, at the distance of sixteen miles, he resolved to march towards him; but before he could attempt it, he found it necessary to draw some rice from Pondamalee, which having done, he marched on the 26th in order to engage Hyder, as the only hope that appeared to him left, from whence he might stand a chance of surmounting other difficulties.

On General Coote's advancing, Hyder thought proper to fall back a few miles, to the ground on which he had defeated the detachment under Colonel Bailey, when he took up a very strong position; and, influenced from a superstitious notion of its

being a lucky spot, had determined, as the General was informed, to try his fortune in a second battle. On the 27th in the morning, the General moved towards him, and, about eight o'clock, discovered Hyder's army in order of battle, and in full force to receive him, and in possession of many strong and advantageous posts, rendered the more formidable by the nature of the country lying between, which was intersected by very deep water-courses. To present a front to them, the General was obliged to form the line under a very heavy cannonade from several batteries, which galled his army exceedingly, who bore it with a firmness and undaunted bravery which did them the highest honour, and shewed a steady valour, not to be surpassed by the first veterans of any nation in Europe. The action lasted from nine in the morning till near sun-set, when he had drove Hyder's people from all their strong posts, and obliged them to retreat with precipitation, leaving him in full possession of the field of battle. The loss of the English on this occasion was heavier than on the 1st of July, and that of Hyder less, owing to
their

their having sheltered themselves under cover of banks of tanks, and other grounds, which they possessed favourable for that purpose. General Stuart had the misfortune to lose his leg by a cannon shot, whilst bravely conducting the second line to the support of a post which the English had occupied at the commencement of the engagement, and on which Hyder had kept a very severe fire; the same shot also carried away the leg of Colonel Brown, and having caused his death, deprived the Company of a very old and faithful servant. Captain Hislop, one of the Generals' Aids de Camp, was also killed by a cannon-shot.

By this time the garrison of Vellore was in great distress for provisions, as Hyder had kept a flying party hovering about it, whereby all communication was cut off. General Coote resolved to march to its relief; as Hyder had also taken that route, who, by his different movements, impeded the General's march for some time. However, on the 27th of September, the General discovered Hyder's encampment, and from the disposition he could perceive Hyder had
made

made of his troops, was satisfied that he meant to try the event of another battle; the General immediately advanced, and both armies were closely engaged before four o'clock in the afternoon, and, by evening, Hyder was once more completely routed. The loss of the English on this occasion was very trifling, whilst Hyder's was very considerable, both in cavalry and infantry, as they had not the convenience of banks, &c. to creep behind as on the 27th of August. The English had but one subaltern officer killed, and about 100 rank and file killed, wounded, and missing. The General still wanting to throw in another supply of provisions to Vellore, Colonel Owen was detached with a party on this service; he was attacked by the whole of Hyder's army, the efforts of which he bravely resisted, and made an able retreat on the 23d of October: he lost only 160 killed and wounded. Hyder lost about 800, mostly horse.

General Coote immediately marched for Vellore, where he arrived the 4th of November, and threw in some fresh supplies of provisions, though but little, all he could spare

spare at present, without which, in four or five days more, must either have been evacuated, or given up to the enemy; the General then proceeded to Chittor, to which he laid siege on the 8th, and the place capitulated on the 10th.

Vellore being once more in distress for provisions, it was necessary that the army should again march to its relief.

The General having made his arrangements on the 2d of December, he marched the army towards Vellore; Hyder had assembled all his people, in full force, on the western banks of the Ponri River: on the English approaching near, which was on the evening of the 9th, he decamped and retreated with precipitation towards Lallapet, and left the General to take up their ground in quiet: distance about twelve miles from Vellore. The next morning, about ten o'clock, while the General was on the march, and the army then crossing a deep morass, their rear and left flank were attacked by a distant cannonade from Hyder, whose different manœuvres were evidently with a view to impede his progress to Vellore,

Vellore, and to attack his baggage and convoy. Hyder having been completely foiled in all his attempts to that end, thought proper to retire about three o'clock in the afternoon, after having kept up a heavy fire for about four hours. The loss of the English, on this occasion, was one Lieutenant, 19 native rank and file, killed; two Lieutenants, two Europeans rank and file, one subidar, and 35 sepoy rank and file, wounded; one European and four sepoy missing.

The General then prosecuted his march, and encamped, for the night, within four miles of Vellore; he arrived the next morning, being the 11th, the very day to which he had been pre-advised by the commanding officer of the garrison, the provisions would last.

A halting day was now absolutely necessary for the refreshment of the troops, and draught and carriage cattle; so that the General did not march back until the 13th, on which day Hyder appeared in full force, and chose again to make an attack by a distant cannonade on him, whilst the army was crossing the same marshy ground, where he
attacked

attacked him before, on the 10th, in going. About four o'clock in the afternoon, the whole had got clear over the swamp, and, having posted the baggage with a proper guard, the General formed the line, and advanced upon Hyder with all the expedition the nature of the ground would admit of; upon which he gave way, and retreated once more with precipitation. The English pursued him till dark, doing great execution; then returned to their intended ground of encampment about midnight, whose loss on this affair was only one officer wounded, with about 60 rank and file, black and white, killed, wounded and missing; whilst Hyder's must have been treble that number, by what they could see laying in the way, during the pursuit.

I must now leave General Coote, and observe what is doing to the southward.

In the month of February 1782, Lieutenant Colonel Braithwaite was encamped with a strong detachment near the village of Valleteole, in the Tanjore country, near the River Colleroon.

Tippoo.

Tippoo Saib was also detached from Hyder's army with a powerful party of horse and foot, and encamped on the opposite side the said River, a few miles distant from Colonel Braithwaite's party.

On the morning of the 17th instant, the Colonel received intelligence, that a large body of Tippoo's horse had crossed the River, with an intention to cut some green rice for their horses, on which he ordered out Lieutenant Sampson, with some cavalry under his command, to drive them off; the Colonel, in the mean time, rode to an eminence which commanded a view of the River, from whence he beheld, at a little distance, the whole of Tippoo's party, with their guns and elephants then crossing the River; on which he rode back to his camp, and immediately got them under arms: likewise sent an order to recall Lieutenant Sampson with his cavalry, who, with the greatest difficulty, effected his retreat, with the loss of several men and horses.

By this time the line being ready, the Colonel detached four companies of sepoy to the village in his rear, where all the provisions

vifions of his party were depofited, in charge of the Cafbarry and his people, who was a renter of that diftrict under the Rajah of Tanjore.

This village was ftrongly ftockaded, the fepoys had fcarcely croffed a water-courfe that ran near it, but they were fired on from four guns belonging to Tippoo Saib.

The Cafbarry had been bribed by Tippoo Saib, and, during the preceding night, had admitted three battalions of his fepoys, with four guns, to take poffeffion of the village. The Colonel being thus betrayed, loft all his provifions ; and by this time, Tippoo's van were arrived, and commenced a cannonade from 20 guns, while the main body of his party moved round towards the Colonel's rear, on which the Colonel called in his advanced picquet, and made his rear his front, as Tippoo's greateft efforts were made from that quarter, whofe cavalry made feveral charges, and were as often repulfed with great lofs.

Part of Tippoo's infantry now poffeffed the poft which the Colonel's advanced picquet had left, and another party poffeffed
themselves

themselves of some high banks on the Colonel's left, from whence they cannonaded him from four 24-pounders, which did great havock, as they continued firing all that day.

At this time there being three small detachments out from the garrison of Tanjore, collecting provisions for a store in case of a siege, and the Colonel well-knowing, that if he did not divert the intention of Tippoo Saib, they might in all probability be cut off by a detachment of his, which might have been easily effected, as his party was so powerful. The Colonel, therefore, most generously determined to abide the consequence of holding out against him as long as he could, which would give the Tanjore detachments time to return to their garrison, as the event justified his choice.

About ten o'clock that night the Colonel marched, with intention to take post in the Pagoda of Videauescail, where he thought it possible to hold out until the next night, although without provisions, and afterwards by a forced march to reach the town of Trivalore, and from thence to go to Nega-
patam.

patam. These designs were practicable, as drowning people are apt to catch at every twig that might afford them a prospect of safety; but here his designs were frustrated by the villainy of his herricar, or guide, who led the party out of their way, over rice-fields and water-courses, one of which took them four hours to cross, with their guns and tumbrils, &c.

Tippoo Saib, all this time, had not the least idea that the Colonel would presume to move, therefore had made no preparation to oppose him, and it was four o'clock in the morning before he knew any thing of their being moved off.

Had it not been for those unforeseen halts, they would have certainly reached the aforementioned pagoda early in the morning of the 18th. Tippoo Saib's advanced party arrived in sight, and commenced a heavy cannonade without doing much execution; they being kept at a respectable distance by the Colonel's flanking guards, and the country being enclosed, hindered Tippoo's cavalry from acting.

About eleven o'clock they reached a large choultry (a stone building for travellers to rest in) on the side of a village, where was a thick grove of trees; here Tippoo had prepared an ambuscade of about 300 horse, not above 50 yards from the road through which they were to pass; these charged them, and rode quite through their line, but evidently with the greatest confusion and fear on their part: they attempted to return the same way, but by this time the sepoys had closed their ranks, and gave them a warm but an irregular fire, so that very few escaped who made this charge. In case this charge had taken the desired effect, by putting the whole party in confusion, they were to have been supported by another large party, who were in readiness to embrace the advantage; as it is a fact, that Tippoo had given them strict orders to cut every European to pieces.

The sepoys, when once they had began firing, could not by any means be restrained, but continued it while they had a cartridge left; and the gun ammunition being nearly expended, the sepoys were also in a terrible confusion, being now under no
fort

fort of subordination, but running about in search of their wives and children. Tippoo's party had by this time completely surrounded them, and ready to fall on from every side; on which some of the officers representing to the Colonel the impossibility of holding out any longer, determined him to *ask quarter*, which was immediately granted.

Side Saib, one of Tippoo's Generals, advanced and told the Colonel, that the lives of his party should be saved; and whatever of their baggage that could be preserved from the general plunder, should be restored to them: however, they had but a small part of it returned.

As soon as the confusion was a little subsided, Tippoo Saib ordered all the English officers to be brought to him, when, after examining them, they were sent into the village, accompanied by one of his French surgeons, to dress those that were wounded.

The next morning, Tippoo sent them a few pieces of fine callico cloth, to make them clothes; also four pieces of a coarser sort, for bandages for their wounds; like-

wife thirty pagodas, 12l. sterling, with further assurance, that they should have whatever they wanted; by these means, they were induced to entertain a favourable idea of his character for the present; but afterwards they woefully experienced the contrary. Such was the fate of this gallant little party; many of whom were killed and wounded, and the rest taken prisoners.

After this nothing of consequence happened until the latter end of March, when the French had a squadron of ships arrived from Europe, with a considerable body of land-forces, whom they landed at Porto Nova; and now being free from any apprehensions of the English southern army, whilst that of Hyder kept General Coote from making any sudden attack on them from the northward, they proceeded with the greatest security to Cuddalore, which being weak and incapable of holding out any time, was, on the 4th of April, 1782, surrendered on terms of capitulation; immediately after this the French sent a strong reinforcement of Europeans to Hyder's camp, who, now on the 12th, moved to Permacoil and invested.

vested it, and that place surrendered on terms, on the 17th.

General Coote, from his intelligence, had every reason to believe, that the French and Hyder would march immediately to attack Wandewash ; he therefore marched his army towards it with all possible dispatch, in full persuasion, that they would have met him there, and tried a decisive action ; but he arrived there without receiving the smallest opposition : apprehending, however, lest they might be in doubt about his desire of bringing them to action, and convinced that they would not seek him in the neighbourhood of Wandewash, where he could have received them to great advantage, whereupon he determined to advance towards them. He accordingly made two marches in the direct road to the ground, ~~on~~ which he had observed them, from the hill of Wandewash, to be encamped ; but on his approach they fell back, and both by his intelligence, and by what they could discover from the heights near his camp, they had taken up their station on the Red Hills near Pondicherry. This was a posi-

tion in itself so strong, and could, by an army of such magnitude as Hyder's, supported by an European force, far exceeding the numbers in his army, be occupied to so great advantage, that he judged it expedient to lay his intelligence and sentiments before the two next officers in command, Major General Stuart and Colonel Lang, that he might have the benefit of their opinions on a matter of such momentous importance, and on the issue of which depended the whole of the British interests in India.

Upon a reference to the council of war, which was held on this occasion, the idea the General suggested, of drawing the enemy from their strong hold, by moving in a direction, which would effectually check Hyder's supplies, and alarm him for the safety of his grand magazine at Arnee, was unanimously approved.

In conformity to that plan, the General marched on the 30th of May, and on the 1st of June encamped at the distance of five miles from Arnee. That day he received intelligence, that Hyder, on hearing the
route

route he had taken, marched immediately, and that the advance of his army had arrived the preceding evening at Dessoor, distant from the General about twenty-five miles ; who was thereby satisfied, that the effect he had in view had taken place : he immediately ordered a proper place to be reconnoitred for posting his baggage, in case he should find it adviseable to go and meet Hyder, or to receive him on the ground he then occupied.

Early in the morning of the 2d, the General received intelligence, that Hyder and the French were arrived at Chittepett, about eleven miles distant from him. His army being then under orders of march to proceed nearer Arnee, which he was encouraged to believe might prove an easy acquisition ; and which, by the large stock of provisions it contained, added to the extreme fitness of its situation, opened to him no less a prospect than the total expulsion of Hyder from the Carnatic. In the General's then position, with Hyder's army on the one side, and an object of such magnitude on the other, it became a point of de-

liberation, which was the most eligible line of conduct to be adopted ; to persevere in his original intention of threatening Arnee, (which Hyder had most undoubtedly come to cover) and thereby bring on an action, or to advance and engage them ; he preferred the former, as it promised the most certain issue upon the mind of Hyder, whose sole view evidently was to save his grand magazine. It was equal to him, whether he accomplished that by diverting the General's attention from it, or by giving him battle. But it is reasonable to imagine, that if he succeeded on the former grounds, he would hardly, after having suffered four defeats, put any thing to risk on the latter.

The General, therefore, commenced his march towards Arnee, contiguous to which the advance of his army had arrived, and had begun to mark out the ground for the encampment, when a distant cannonade opened on his rear, and which was the first annunciation he had of Hyder's having approached so near him in force. His coming upon him thus suddenly, proceeded from his being able to cover the march of
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his line of infantry, by his large bodies of horse, and which having generally been the companions of the General's movements, during the whole of the war, were never to be considered as any positive proof of his army being at hand.

Every dispatch was used in making the necessary dispositions for repelling the attack, and coming to action. The line being then in a low situation, with high and commanding ground all round, which as Hyder had got possession of, the Général's manœuvres were performed under every disadvantage, and exposed to a heavy, though distant cannonade. It was not until near mid-day, that he had reduced Hyder's various attacks into one settled point, so as to advance upon them with effect, and with a prospect of advantage; but so soon as that was accomplished, he pushed on, and Hyder gave way: he pursued them till the evening was far advanced, taking from them in their retreat one gun and five tumbrils, and two carts loaded with ammunition.

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The General remained at this advanced station to the last moment the state of his provisions would admit of; and when obliged to fall back for his supplies, he endeavoured to do it with all the credit possible, by again seeking for Hyder, who, by intelligence, had encamped with his army contiguous to a road the General might march. Hyder retreated before him with precipitation, although in possession of ground which he could have disputed to advantage. The General pursued his march the next day, by the same road on which Hyder had retreated, but found that he had turned off, and crossed the country towards Arnee.

On the 8th of June, whilst the General was encamped near Trivetore, and when he had halted a day to refresh the troops and cattle, his grand guard was most unfortunately drawn into an ambuscade of about 6000 of Hyder's chosen horse, and totally cut off before any support could be afforded.

At this time the General received intelligence from Bombay, that a peace was concluded

concluded between the English and the Mahrattas the 17th of May last.

Nothing of consequence happened to either army for the four following months.

The monsoons being now set in, both armies were settled in their different cantonments; when advice was received of Hyder's death, who had but just again taken the field, and encamped near Chittoor. He died on the 9th of November, 1782, occasioned by a cancer on his back, which he had been troubled with for some years; the French surgeon who had used to dress it, attended several days after his death at his tent, to keep up appearances. His body was conveyed away in a covered dooley, attended by people carrying lighted flambeaus, under pretence of its being one of the ladies of the seraglio, and dispatched to Colar, where he was interred.

Nothing of consequence being now in agitation here, I must take notice of what was transacted on the coast of Mallabar. About this time the Government of Bombay fitted out a strong force, under command of Brigadier-General Mathews, who
proceeded

proceeded to Onore, which place he soon reduced. On his hearing of the death of Hyder, he proceeded to Cundapore, which he also reduced after a very slight resistance. After which he invested and took Mangalore, the 9th of March, 1783 ; on his attempting to storm the fort, they hung out their flag and surrendered. From thence he proceeded towards the Biddenore country, where having taken the gauts, or fortified passes, he reached the city of Biddenore, which place he also reduced.

At this time some misunderstandings happening between him and the Government of Bombay, they suspended him from the command of the army, and appointed Colonel M'Leod, a Brigadier-General, to succeed him ; which gentleman, with others, who were proceeding to Biddenore, were attacked by the Mahrattas, and taken prisoners, but were soon after released ; the particulars of which being foreign to the history of Hyder, I shall forbear to relate.

Tippoo Saib, on hearing that Biddenore was taken, immediately sent the greatest part of his army through the Chaugama Pass,

Pafs, out of the Carnatic, and he himfelffoon followed, in order to ufe his utmoft efforts to recover his valuable poffeffions in the Biddenore country.

In a letter of the 1ft of April, 1783, General Mathews fays, that Tippoo Saib, with 1000 French, 12,000 horfe, and as many infantry, with a large train of artillery, were already arrived within forty-five miles of Biddenore, and purpofed pushing on without delay.

The General having been reinforced by fome of his Majefty's troops, under command of Captain Fetherfton; on the 9th of April, Tippoo Saib's army appeared in fight of Biddenore; and about four o'clock in the afternoon furrounded the town, which is very large, and deftitute of fortification. The General then ordered the army (about 2000 men) to retreat under the walls of the fort, where they remained until fix o'clock. The French had already began to conftitute a battery, which the General determined to attack by ftorm immediately. He had proceeded on this fervice but a fhort time, ere he fent orders for the 102d regiment,

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regiment, and a battalion of sepoy's to march to his relief. Tippoo's French Commandant, seeing so large a body coming against him, made a shew of surrendering, until he could collect more force; having obtained this object, and being asked by Capt. Fetherston if he was going to surrender, laughed at the idea, and told Fetherston, that he imagined the English were going to surrender. The streets and houses by this time were full of Tippoo's troops, who began a heavy fire from all quarters, which killed Captain Fetherston; on which Captain Pyne succeeded to the command of the 102d regiment, who was immediately shot twice through his leg. The sepoy's seeing what havock was made among them by the grape shot, gave way; whereby the rest were obliged to retreat to the fort. Tippoo the next day opened seventy guns against them, which was bravely answered by those from the fort. The place is quite surrounded by hills, and every one commanding it, so that they lay quite exposed; in this situation, however, they held out until the 27th, when Tippoo Saib offered

offered terms ; viz. That the forts of Biddenore or Hydernagur, Anampore, Colidroog, with all the arms and ammunition, stores, and Circar property, should be delivered to him ; that the English should go to Bombay, by way of Goa, and that he would furnish doolies, and every thing necessary for their conveyance. These terms the General thought proper to accept of, as being advantageous in his situation, and accordingly marched out of Biddenore on the 28th of April, to a plain in the neighbourhood, where they laid down their arms, and were surrounded by Tippoo's army, who having sent for the General, field officers, and Captains, had them searched and stripped of every thing ; the other officers and soldiers soon after shared the same fate, which plainly shews how much the word of such a barbarian is to be depended on.

The particulars of the sufferings of those unfortunate gentlemen and poor soldiers, the reader will find annexed to the end of this work.

Colonel Campbell, a brave and experienced officer, at this time commanded at Mangalore,

Mangalore, with a garrison, consisting of the 42d regiment, some detachments from other regiments, some Bombay Europeans, and artillery men, with four battalions of sepoys, altogether about 3,000 men, and a tolerable stock of provisions.

Tippoo Saib, after he had taken Bidde-nore, and put the garrison in order, and settled the country affairs, proceeded immediately to the Mallabar Coast with his army, in order to reduce the garrisons then in possession of the English, so that by the 19th of May he appeared before Mangalore, and began his operations by a vigorous siege.

The trenches being opened and batteries erected, well supplied with cannon, and manned with French gunners, Tippoo thought to have soon made a conquest of the place, but herein he was mistaken; for Colonel Campbell and his brave troops as gallantly defended it, and often repulsed them in several attacks they made on the garrison, till at length the fortifications were reduced to a mere heap of ruins; yet the Colonel supported the defence for several months, although he was in extreme neces-

fity for want of provisions, and almost on the point of starving.

During this time, Mahomet Ally, the first General in Tippoo's army, being dissatisfied, resolved to go over to the English with 5,000 of his best men, with which Tippoo, by some means, became acquainted; whose army being now in a sickly condition, having lain the time of the monsoons before the place, and being also much reduced by loss of those killed and wounded, therefore could but ill spare 5,000 men. He invited Mahomet Ally in the evening to walk with him in the fields without the camp, attended but by few; however, at a private signal by Tippoo, one of his attendants stabbed Mahomet Ally, that he died on the spot; by this means he hindered the desertion of the 5,000 men, and continued to carry on the siege, which was as obstinately defended by Colonel Campbell; where we shall leave them, and take notice of what is doing in the Carnatic.

Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote, who had been to Bengal for the benefit of his health, as well as to settle his affairs there,

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previous to his going to Europe, arrived at Madras the 25th of April, 1783, and died there the day following. His loss is most sincerely regretted by every one that knew him.

General Stuart, who now succeeded to the command of the forces in the Carnatic, had marched with the grand army towards Cuddalore, in order to reduce that place, which had been taken by the French some time since.

The General, on his arrival within a few miles of the place on the 12th of June, 1783, called a council of war; the two officers next in command to him, Major General Bruce and Colonel Stuart, and making them acquainted with the state of affairs in general; and, observing above all, the vast works the French were making on the high grounds and lines, in communication with the post commonly called Brickmyre's, thus stretching along the neck by which he was to approach the place; he requested General Bruce and Colonel Stuart freely to speak their minds: he also called the chief engineer, and the commanding officers of the
Bengal

Bengal and Coast artillery as deliberative, desiring to know, in their different departments, if they were in readiness, so far as regarded materials for closing the redoubts after they should get possession, and to form a first parallel; and as to guns; with a sufficient supply of stores for the enterprize. They agreed that every thing was in readiness, and were unanimously of opinion; that there was not an hour to be lost in driving the French from all their out-posts into Cuddalore, or under the guns.

He immediately presented the plan he meant to follow, to effect that purpose, which was, in general, most exactly followed. Lieutenant Colonel Kelly, in the precise moment agreed on, which was the next morning of the 13th, with his party, got possession of the posts of the enemy on the Bandipollam Hills, with their guns; and Lieutenant Colonel Cathcart, at the head of the grenadiers, supported by Colonel Stuart, commanded the advance picquets on the left, consisting of the remains of the 73d regiment, and two battalions of sepoys,

made a movement to turn the enemy's right flank.

In advancing, they sustained such a heavy fire, and the ground so difficult, that, with great judgment, Colonel Stuart covered his people, until he could better reconnoitre, and some further disposition could be taken to approach the enemy from different quarters, nearly about the same time. He sent the General a report of his situation, who gave orders, in consequence, to the reserve under Colonel Gordon, to make a movement in advance to their left, and to Major General Bruce to march to the right, in the direction of the redoubt, if the ground would admit of it.

The General had very properly posted Lieutenant Colonel Edmondson upon the sand-hills, near the sea, to support four brass 18-pounders, and prevent their being flanked on that side.

Upon further information that the redoubt, which principally annoyed the grenadiers, was to be got at in the rear, orders were given for the grenadiers, the reserve, and the right under General Bruce, to close
upon

upon the enemy with their musquetry, leaving their guns under cover; he then desired the commanding officer of artillery to fire three guns as a signal, and to continue a heavy fire for five minutes on the enemy's redoubt, on the front opposite to Colonel Stuart, and the grenadiers, whilst the reserve under Colonel Gordon was moving on; upon the fire ceasing, the attack on all sides began.

The reserve advanced in the best order imaginable, under a very heavy fire of musquetry, round and grape; the greatest part of whom soon got within the enemy's entrenchments, where they lost a great many men.

Another part of the army were driven back, and pursued for a considerable time by the enemy; however, at that precise time, whilst the French were in pursuit, the grenadiers under Colonel Cathcart and Major Moore, with Colonel Stuart and Captain Lamont, with the 73d, entered the redoubt on the side where it was not entirely closed, and not only took possession of it, but pushed forward to a post called Brick-

myre's, considerably in advance, and were for some time in possession of it, with the guns, but obliged to quit, upon fresh troops pouring in upon them.

They, however, kept hold of the first redoubt, as commanding or enfilading every thing in front, or to the right of it, and therefore a good point to go from, in their approaches ; it was ordered to be closed by the chief engineer as soon as possible. The havock done by the English guns from the heights now appeared plain ; and having thus secured, by Lieutenant Colonel Kelly and his brigade, the commanding points of Bandipollam Hills, and seeing from thence the whole bounds of Cuddalore : and having secured a post to approach from, of such importance as before-mentioned, the General thought it sufficient for the day, considering the numbers of his brave men that had fallen.

The French, in the course of the night, abandoned all their remaining out-posts, and drew off their guns, excepting three, which were brought back by the English into the redoubt,

redoubt, ready to open against their former masters,

From the best accounts, the French lost in this affair 42 officers and 600 men, with 16 guns and eight tumbrils,

The loss of the English was 10 officers and 152 Europeans, rank and file, killed; 36 officers and 357 Europeans, rank and file, wounded. Sepoys, five officers and 29 men killed; eight officers and 224 men wounded.

The next day, the 14th, the General advanced with his army near to the fort of Cuddalore.

The other English army, acting in the Carnatic under Colonel Lang, had made an irruption into the Coimbatore country, subduing the forts of Caroor and Dindegul, when the Colonel was recalled to join the grand army before Cuddalore, and Colonel Fullerton invested with the command in his room, who with great spirit and activity had pushed on as far as Darampore, which place surrendered to him the 1st of June; he was then within six days march of Paliagacheri, towards which place his farther progress

was totally barred, by an order from General Stuart to move back to Cuddalore, who was soon after ordered to march back again to the Coimbatore country, strongly reinforced.

General Stuart having now made great progress in the siege, on the 25th the French made a sally; their principal attack was directed on the right of the English parallel, who having a redoubt there, with two guns, galled them very much: nevertheless, they came on to close quarters, when they were soon routed, with the loss of four officers and several men killed, their commanding officer taken prisoner, with about 150 men.

The English lost three officers, and about 20 men killed and wounded.

Soon after this, General Stuart received the news of a peace being concluded in Europe the 9th of February, in consequence of which, a cessation of hostilities took place. It is imagined that the garrison would soon have been subdued, had not this news arrived.

The French immediately transmitted an account of the peace to their general, Tippoo

Tippoo Saib, on the receipt of which he also thought fit to cease hostilities, and withdrew his army from before the fort of Mangalore.

Some gentlemen of the Council being now sent off from Madras to Tippoo Saib with the like news, and empowered to conclude a treaty of peace with him, in which they succeeded; of which the following is a copy :

Treaty of Peace with the Nabob TIPPoo
SULTAN BAHAUDER.

(The Company's)	(Sultan's)
Seal.	Seal.

TREATY of perpetual peace and friendship between the Honourable the English East-India Company, and the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder, on his own behalf, for the countries of Seringapatam, Hyder Nagur, &c. and all his other possessions, settled by Anthony Sadleir, George Leonard Staunton, and John Huddleston, Esqrs. on behalf of the Honourable East-India Company, for all their possessions, and for the Carnatic

Carnatic Payen Gaut, by virtue of powers delegated to the Right Honourable the President and Select Committee of Fort St. George, for that purpose, by the Honourable the Governor General and Council appointed by the King and Parliament of Great Britain, to direct and controul all political affairs of the Honourable East-India Company in India, and by the said Nabob, agreeably to the following articles, which are to be strictly and invariably observed, as long as the sun and moon shall last, by both parties; that is to say, by the English Company, and the three governments of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, and the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder.

Article I. Peace and friendship shall immediately take place between the said Company and the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder, and their friends and allies, particularly including therein the Rajahs of Tanjore and Travencore, who are friends and allies to the English, and the Carnatic Payen Gaut; also Tippoo Sultan's friends and allies: the Beby of Cannanore, and the Rajahs, or Zemindars, of the Malabar Coast,

are

are included in this treaty. The English will not, directly, or indirectly, assist the enemies of the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder, nor make war upon his friends or allies; and the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder will not, directly, or indirectly, assist the enemies, nor make war upon the friends or allies of the English.

Article II. Immediately after signing and sealing the treaty by the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder, and the three English Commissioners, the said Nabob shall send orders for the complete evacuation of the Carnatic, and the restoration of all the forts and places in it, now possessed by his troops; the forts of Amboorgur and Satgur excepted: and such evacuation and restoration shall actually and effectually be made in the space of thirty days, from the day of signing the treaty. And the said Nabob shall also, immediately after signing the treaty, send orders for the release of all the persons who were taken and made prisoners in the late war, and now alive, whether European or native; and for their being safely conducted to and delivered at such English fort, or settlement,

ment, as shall be nearest to the places where they now are, so that the said release and delivery of the prisoners shall actually and effectually be made in thirty days from the day of signing the treaty. The Nabob will cause them to be supplied with provisions and conveyances for the journey, the expence of which shall be made good to him by the Company. The Commissioners will send an officer, or officers, to accompany the prisoners to the different places where they are to be delivered; in particular, Abdul Wahab Cawn, taken at Chitoor, and his family, shall be immediately released; and, if willing to return to the Carnatic, shall be allowed to do so. If any person, or persons, belonging to the said Nabob, and taken by the Company in the late war, be now alive, and in prison in Bencoolen, or other territories of the Company, such person, or persons, shall be immediately released; and, if willing to return, shall be sent without delay to the nearest fort, or settlement, in the Myfore country. Baswasca, late Amildar of Pali-
Veracherry;

cacherry, shall be released, and at liberty to depart.

Article III. Immediately after signing and sealing the treaty, the English Commissioners shall give written orders for the delivery of Onore, Carwar, and Sadashevagada, and forts or places adjoining thereto, and send a ship, or ships, to bring away the garrisons. The Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder, will cause the troops in those places to be supplied with provisions, and any other necessary assistance for their voyage to Bombay, (they paying for the same) the Commissioners will likewise give at the same time, written orders for the immediate delivery of the forts and districts of Carour, Auracourchy, and Daraparam ; and immediately after the release and delivery of the prisoners as before mentioned, the fort and district of Dindigal shall be evacuated and restored to the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder, and none of the troops of the Company shall afterwards remain in the country of the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder.

Article IV. As soon as all the prisoners are released and delivered, the fort and district of Cannanore shall be evacuated, and restored to Ali Rajah Biby, the Queen of that country; in the presence of any one person; without troops, whom the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder may appoint for that purpose; and at the same time that the orders are given for the evacuation and delivery of the forts of Cannanore and Dindigal, the said Nabob shall give written orders for the evacuation and delivery of Amboorgur and Satgur to the English; and in the mean time, none of the troops of the said Nabob shall be left in any part of the Carnatic, except in the two forts abovementioned.

Article V. After the conclusion of this treaty, the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder will make no claim whatever, in future, on the Carnatic:

Article VI. All persons whatsoever, who have been taken and carried away from the Carnatic Payen Gaut, (which includes Tanjore) by the late Nabob Hyder Ally Cawn Bahauder, who is in ~~heaven~~, or by the
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the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder, or otherwise belonging to the Carnatic, and now in the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder's dominions, and willing to return, shall be immediately allowed to return with their families and children, or as soon as may be convenient to themselves; and all persons belonging to Veneatgcherry Rajah, who were taken prisoners in returning from the fort of Vellore, to which place they had been sent with provisions, shall also be released, and permitted immediately to return. Lists of the principal persons belonging to the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn Bahauder, and to the Rajah of Veneagatcherry, shall be delivered to the Nabob Tippoo Sultan's Ministers; and the Nabob will cause the contents of this article to be publicly notified throughout his country.

Article VII. This being the happy period of general peace and reconciliation, the Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder, as a testimony and a proof of his friendship to the English, agrees, that the Rajahs, or Zemindars, on this coast, who have favoured
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the English in the late war, shall not be molested on that account.

Article VIII. The Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder, hereby renews and confirms all the commercial privileges and immunities given to the English by the late Nabob Hyder Ally Cawn Bahauder, who is in heaven, and particularly stipulated and specified in the treaty between the Company and the said Nabob, concluded the 8th of August, 1770.

Article IX. The Nabob Tippoo Sultan Bahauder, shall restore the factory and privileges possessed by the English at Callicut, until the year 1779, (or 1193 Hegira) and shall restore Mount Dilly, and its district, belonging to the settlement of Tellichery, and possessed by the English, till taken by Sedar Cawn, at the commencement of the late war.

Article X. This treaty shall be signed and sealed by the English Commissioners, and a copy of it shall afterwards be signed and sealed by the President and Select Committee of Fort St. George, and returned

to the Nabob 'Tippoo Sultan Bahauder, in one month, or sooner, if possible; and the same shall be acknowledged under the hands and seals of the Governor General and Council of Bengal, and the Governor and Select Committee of Bombay, as binding upon all the Governments in India; and copies of the treaty, so acknowledged, shall be sent to the said Nobob, in three months, or sooner, if possible. In testimony whereof, the said contracting parties have signed, sealed, and interchangeably delivered two instruments of the same tenor and date; to wit, the said three Commissioners on behalf of the Honorable English East-India Company, and the Carnatic Poyen Gaut, and the said Nabob 'Tippoo Sultan Bahauder on his behalf, and the dominions of Seringapatam and Hyder Nagur, &c. Thus executed at Mangulore, (otherwise called Codial Bunder) this 11th day of March, and year 1784, of the Christian era, and 16th day of the Moon Rabillafany, in the year of the H₂gira 1198.

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(Signed)

Tipoo Sultan's ANTH. SADLER, (L. S.)

Signature. G. L. STAUNTON, (L. S.)

J. HUDDLESTON, (L. S.)

(A true Copy,)

W. C. Jackson, Secretary to the Embassy.

NARRATIVE

*NARRATIVE of the Treatment of the
Prisoners taken with Brigadier-General
RICHARD MATHEWS, by the NABOB
TIPPOO SULTAN BHAUDER, April
28, 1783.*

THE siege of Beddanore having lasted seventeen days, a cessation of arms took place on the 24th of April 1783, and on the 26th the General called a council of war, who, after deliberating on the situation of affairs, came to a resolution of capitulating, on condition that the garrison should be allowed to march out of the fort with the honors of war, and pile their arms on the glacis; that all public stores should be delivered up; that the Nabob should furnish the troops with a plentiful buzzar, and proper conveyances for the sick; that, after being joined by the garrisons of Coolidroog and Anantpore, they should be at liberty to march unmolested, with their private property, to Sedashaghurr, from thence

to embark for Bombay; that a guard of 100 sepoy's should be granted Brigadier-General R. Mathews, with 36 rounds of ammunition; and that the Nabob, for the performance of the treaty on his part, should deliver two hostages.

The capitulation being signed, and the hostages received, the garrison marched out of the fort with the honors of war, on the evening of the 28th of April, and, after piling their arms on the glacis, were immediately escorted by a strong body of the enemy to a tank, about half a mile beyond the Onore gate, where the General was told he must encamp that night; to which he reluctantly consented, it being his intention to have marched two or three miles further. When the whole came up, the enemy surrounded us, and posted centinels on every side, beyond whom no person was permitted to pass. The General, calling for his body guard, was informed, that the enemy had forcibly taken away their arms and ammunition from them, and had likewise deprived many of the officers of their side arms. Early the next morning, while the troops

troops were preparing to march, the General received a message from the Nabob, desiring to see him, Captains Eames and Lendrum, and Mr. Stewart the Commissary; he accordingly waited on the Nabob, accompanied by those gentlemen, and took several of the officers servants along with him, in hopes of recovering those articles, of which they had been plundered by the enemy the preceding day; soon after their departure, a good bazaar arrived in camp, together with people to carry away the doolies, out of which they threw the sick and wounded in the most inhuman manner, seizing those who had lately suffered amputation by the stumps, and left them in that horrid and dreadful situation on the ground, exposed to the sun; on being asked the cause of such inhuman treatment, the barbarians replied, they had received orders to make the doolies two feet longer.

The troops had waited with the greatest impatience for the General's return, till five o'clock in the evening, when intelligence was received, that Brigadier-General Mathews, with the other gentlemen, were im-

mediately upon their arrival at the Durbar, without being admitted into the Nabob's presence, made close prisoners. At ten o'clock at night we were alarmed by the arrival of an additional force of the enemy, when the guards turned out, and posted double centinels all round us; their designs we plainly discovered, though they endeavoured to lull our suspicions with the pretext, that those guards which had been first posted over us, were a part of Mahomed Ally's troops, who were going to be relieved, in order to be sent to Mangalore. The next morning we discovered the enemy had spies in every part of our camp, and emissaries employed to entice our troops to enter into the Nabob's service. A message was received from the Nabob to know what number of tents were wanted, at the same time informing us, we were to remain there some days. The tents we refused, but a letter signed by all the officers was written to the Nabob, requiring him immediately to fulfill the terms of capitulation; which letter was sent him by Major Fewtrill of the Bombay establishment,

(who

(who was ordered into Beddanore with Captain Alston, Commanding Officer of his Majesty's troops, and Lieutenant Young, Major of Brigade to the Bombay troops) but no answer was received to this letter. Early the next morning, the 1st of May, a report prevailed, that the troops were to be plundered of their property; which we soon found to be too true, for at ten o'clock the buzzar was taken away, the guards ordered under arms, and all the European officers sent for immediately to the spot of ground from whence the buzzar had been taken, where we were one by one plundered by the enemy, in the most scandalous manner, of our horses, palenqueens, money, plate, valuables, &c. and, in short, of every article, except our bedding and cloaths, searching us most minutely in every part, without the least regard to decency. The European soldiers, black officers, and sepoys, with their wives and children, as also the camp followers, were searched and plundered in the same indecent and infamous manner; and at four o'clock in the afternoon were marched under a strong

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guard

guard to Beddanore, the sick and wounded being left to perish on the ground. Shortly after, the European officers, with their servants, were conducted to Beddanore, where we were closely confined in the barracks formerly occupied by a battalion of our own sepoys; and, from the time the villains began to plunder us, we had nothing to eat of any kind till twelve o'clock the next day, at which time they brought and delivered to each person, one pice and a seer of the coarsest rice, which they informed us was to be the daily allowance of officers and servants indiscriminately. On the 5th of the same month, all our servants, except one to each officer, were taken away. On the 6th the subaltern officers belonging to Annantapore, were brought prisoners to the barracks, who informed us of their having seen the officers of Coolidroog, and the garrisons of that place and Annantapore, in irons, and also that all the fine young lads of the 3d and 15th battalions of sepoys, were, by orders of the Nabob, forcibly taken away, in order to be made slaves of, and put into his Cheelah battalions.

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On the 7th arrived Lieutenant Muirson, of the 100th regiment, and Lieutenants Mac Kenzie and Barnwell, of the Bombay establishment; the two former taken at Cundapore, the latter at the commencement of the siege, with Captain Gotlich, of the Bombay establishment; these gentlemen informed us they had been in irons for some days. This day we wrote a letter (signed by all the officers present) to Lieut. Colonel De Cossigne, commanding officer of the French troops, representing to him, in a spirited manner, the Nabob's base violation of the conditions on which Beddanore surrendered, as also his shameful cruel conduct towards the troops in general; requesting (in the name of his Britannic Majesty and the East-India Company) that he would use his utmost endeavours with the Nabob, to persuade him to adhere to the terms of capitulation, or (if he failed in that point) that he would at least obtain a mitigation of our hard-hearted usage; we contrived to send this letter by a French officer, who had been taken prisoner by us during the siege, and had come to the barracks with a surgeon of that nation, to return the civilities

civilities he had received from some of our officers during his confinement; we flattered ourselves with great hopes of redress from this letter, particularly as the French officer assured us, that Lieutenant Colonel De Cossigne was very well inclined to exert himself in our cause, and gave us his word of honor that he would immediately wait on the Colonel and deliver him our letter; but to our utter astonishment and mortification, we never received an answer from Lieutenant Colonel De Cossigne, nor did any other of the French officers come near us during our stay in the barracks, or offer us the smallest relief in our distressed situation. The chagrin we felt on this occasion, helped not a little to increase the indisposition of many of the officers, who were daily falling sick of fevers and fluxes, which we only could attribute to our wretched food, and the putrid stench arising from the necessary. The French surgeons would afford us no assistance; our own surgeons had it not in their power, having been plundered of their instruments and medicines at the time of the general search. The same day Dr. Carmichael,

michael, of the Bombay establishment, was sent for by the Nabob to visit Brigadier General Mathews, whom he found much indisposed, and by whom he was informed, that the Nabob was endeavouring to intimidate him into a surrender of all the forts in the low country, by threatening to blow him away from a gun, in case of his non-compliance. In the evening the Nabob was so generous as to send us a present of thirty-five small fowls, and a few salt fish, to be divided among upwards of eighty officers. On the 8th, in the morning, the Captains belonging to the garrisons of Coolidroog and Annantpore, together with Captain Gotlich, who was taken prisoner at the commencement of the siege, were brought under a strong guard to the barracks, and were shortly after removed (with the rest of the Captains, Mr. Gifford, surgeon's mate of the 100th regiment, Lieutenants Barnwell and Olivier, of the Bombay establishment, and Mr. Chick, Deputy Commissary) to a separate place of confinement.

On the 9th we were ordered to prepare to march, and were informed we should not be
allowed

allowed coolies to carry our baggage; we, therefore, packed up as much linnen as we could well carry ourselves, and giving our bedding to our servants, we all went into the street, (except Captain Pyne and Ensign Jenour, of the 102d regiment, with Captain Facey, Lieutenants Williamson, Lea and Baird, of the Bombay establishments, who were in a too desperate situation from their wounds to be removed) where we were first stripped of our coats, and then chained two and two by the hands; after which, we were a second time searched and plundered: we were then secured in another house till about three o'clock in the afternoon, when we were led through crouds of people in this ignominious manner (more like criminals going to the place of execution, than British officers made prisoners, contrary to the rules of war) to the enemy's camp, a short distance beyond the Delly Gate, where we heard we were to be confined in a strong fort, called Chettledroog. The enemy, at the time we were leaving the barracks, gave us an instance of the treatment we might in future expect to receive, on their behaviour to

Lieut.

Lieut. Alexander M'Donald, of the Bombay establishment, who was so exceedingly ill that he could scarcely stand: he therefore requested permission to remain behind with the wounded officers, which they obstinately refused, beating and dragging him out by the heels; but, to the honor of the French, we were informed, their treatment of Lieutenant Lambert, of the Bombay establishment, whom they had taken dangerously wounded at the commencement of the siege, was full of tenderness and humanity so peculiar to that nation.

On the 10th in the morning, as we were moving off the ground, each officer received three pice for that day's subsistence; we marched about fifteen miles, and found the apprehensions of yesterday fully justified by this day's usage on the road; several of the officers who were ill, and much fatigued by the intense heat of the sun and the want of water, attempting to rest themselves under a tree, were beat in a most unmerciful manner by the enemy, with swords and sticks, while others were driven on with the butts of the firelocks, spit upon, and abused in the grossest

grosslest manner ; whenever we approached a town or village, four or five were advanced in front with horns and tom-toms, that the inhabitants might, by their discordant music, be assembled together to gaze at us as we passed through. We proceeded on in this miserable condition, each day bringing on a renewal of our sufferings, till our arrival at Simoga, (a fort situated on the banks of a river, sixty miles eastward of Beddanore) our allowance having been increased to one fanam each per day, and coolies furnished to carry our bedding and cloaths, whenever the commanding officer of the escort thought proper to procure them. As we were to halt here one day, we fondly expected some little indulgencies, especially for those gentlemen who were ill ; but our inhuman enemy, as if delighted with every fresh opportunity of augmenting our afflictions, when entreated to afford some assistance to Lieutenant Fireworker West, of the Bombay establishment, and Serjeant Dobbins, of the 102d regiment, who had been struck with the sun, owing to our long and severe marches, absolutely refused it, saying, they were only drunk.

drunk, and seemed to exult in their misery, although the one was quite speechless, and the other raving mad; nor were they satisfied with this, but even extended their brutish insults to the lifeless body of Lieut. Waugh, of the Bombay establishment, whose death was evidently hastened by the injuries he had received upon the road. On the 14th, we had the misfortune to lose Lieut. Clements, of the Bombay establishment, who, on his departure from Beddanore, was in perfect health, but on the last day's march received a severe stroke of the sun, of which he died chained to Ensign Gilkie, of the same establishment, who remained in that disagreeable situation several hours. In the evening Lieut. Sutton, of the Bombay establishment, was seized with the cramp, and spasms in his stomach, and, by his violent contortions, gave great pains to Lieut. Reddie, who was hand-cuffed to him, and in great danger of having his arm broke, and who, for unrivetting the iron, though he had permission from one of the escort so to do, was immediately taken to a tree, and threatened to be hanged, for which purpose ropes were

were prepared, and the Jemidar informed us he had received orders from the Nabob to hang every person who should even attempt to free himself from his fetters ; but, on a submissive representation of the business, Lieut. Reddie was so far indulged, as to escape only with a few lashes ; we again made application for assistance to Lieutenant Sutton, to which we received the following sanguinary reply, mingled with a large share of Eastern abuse : “ Let him die, and when he is dead, we’ll drag him out of the camp by his heels ; ” however, by the merciful hands of Providence, he recovered in a few hours. About ten o’clock at night, came on a most violent thunder storm, which lasted some hours, and having no kind of shelter from the rain, we all suffered exceedingly, particularly the sick, whose disorders were much increased by it ; some of the gentlemen who were troubled with severe fluxes and agues, being much affected by the rain and raw cold wind, went to some fires made by the guard after the storm had ceased, in order to warm themselves, but were given soon to understand, that it was
too

too great an indulgence for British officers to enjoy, being instantly drove away from the fires by the enemy with the butts of their firelocks. We left this place on the morning of the 15th, and, after a short march, arrived at Holly Onvor, (a fort situated on the east bank of a rapid river) and for the first time since we began our march brought under cover. As Ensign Cadogan, of the Bombay establishment, was exceedingly ill, and coming into the fort, endeavouring to shift his posture in the quilt in which he was carried, he received a blow on the head from one of the coolies, and died a short time afterwards, when he was stripped of every article, and in that naked condition thrown into a hole by the side of the river, without suffering us to pay our last duty to the corpse. As we approached the destined place of confinement, our escort began to relax a little in their severity, and (supplying bullocks to some of the sick to ride on, for the use of which we gave part of the few cloaths we had with us) by slow marches we arrived, on the 21st of May, 1783, at Chettledroog, a strong and almost impenetrable fortress,

irregularly built, on the end of a ridge of hills, rising in a flat country, 128 miles eastward of Beddanore. Here we were led in triumph to a street leading to the Durbar, where we were detained, surrounded by crowds of people, till four o'clock in the afternoon, at which hour all the servants (except one to every five officers) were taken away; they then separated us into two parties, and marched us up through ten very strong gateways to the top of one of the highest hills, and there closely confined us in two separate houses; and, after having a third time searched and plundered us, our hand-cuffs were knocked off, and irons put on our legs. Late in the evening (having had nothing to eat the whole day) they brought us rice, with wood and water to dress it, and next morning we were ordered to deliver up all our knives and papers, but were permitted to keep a few books, which some of the officers had brought with them; they then furnished us with an hand-mill for the purpose of grinding rice, which afterwards became our chief employment: about ten o'clock a Brahmin came up, and delivered

delivered to each person one seer of the coarsest rice and two pice, with wood sufficient to cook our victuals, which he told us was to be our daily allowance: our servants were only allowed each one pice per day; we were also furnished with a buzzer, pretty well supplied with every article, except butchers meat. We were, at this time, confined entirely to the house, but informed that a necessary was building in the outer yard, to which, when finished, we should be permitted to go. On the 29th the necessary being compleated, two gentlemen at a time were permitted to go to it. On the 4th of June we sent our compliments to Dowlat Bhauce, the Jemmidar of the province, acquainting him it was our King's birth-day, and, on that account, requesting we might be allowed some meat; in consequence of this application, out of his great generosity, he ordered a small lean sheep to be sent up, for which we paid a most exorbitant price, and which was of but little service to us, who were forty in number. On the 8th, the wood which had been daily served out to us, was stopped,

nor would the enemy supply us with more till we consented to pay for it, which additional expence deprived us of half our paltry daily allowance. On application being made for medicines for the sick, we were informed that the strictest orders had been issued out not to supply us with any, that we had not come there to live, and that the Nabob would be happy to hear we were all dead. Those gentlemen who were ill, appeared, from this circumstance, to despond exceedingly, seeing no prospect of recovery except what nature might work : thus unhappily situated, we used every means to procure some medicines, but all in vain, for the sentries to whom we applied, told us, they would willingly bring us some, provided they could do it with safety, but that were they discovered, they would forfeit their ears and noses. On the 13th, three women, who were confined with us, were decoyed out by a report of some fine salt fish being in the bazaar ; on their going out, the doors of our prison were immediately shut, and soon after we were alarmed with horrid shrieks and cries of murder, and could

plainly

plainly hear the women call upon us for assistance, but as it was totally out of our power to afford them any, we could only deplore their situation in anxious suspense, not knowing what might be their fate; however, an hour had not elapsed before our apprehensions were agreeably relieved by their safe return, when they informed us, they had been very roughly handled and narrowly searched, and that a few pagodas which they had contrived to conceal, taken from them. On the 15th, we were deprived of the bazar, nothing being brought for sale but four milk, salt chellies, tamarinds, and tobacco. About midnight, Serjeant Dobbens, of the 102d regiment, who had been ill of a fever some days, departed this life; and, when the doors of the prison were opened in the morning, we made the * Wurdy Wollah acquainted with the circumstance, and requested the corpse might be immediately taken away, and decently interred, for we feared the putrid stench that arose from it might occasion some infectious distemper; but, instead of complying with our request,

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* The man who counted us twice a day.

he told us we must dig a grave in the prison, and bury him there ; we then represented to him the offensive inconveniency of such a measure, as likewise the impossibility of doing it, having no tools for the purpose : to which he replied, “ dig it with your nails ;” however, after many humble intreaties, we at last gained our point, and the funeral service having been read, the corpse was tied up in a mat, and carried out of the prison by our own servants, after which the enemy tied a rope about the neck and took it away. On the 20th, they deprived us of our sour milk, so that we had nothing then to subsist on but rice alone, without any other vehicle than water to carry it down. Uncertain how this diet might agree with us, and several of the officers being sick and destitute of medicine, our situation became wretched, and our prospect dreadful, from a belief that the worst was yet to come ; and their taking away a few onions (which one of the gentlemen had reserved from the time of our being deprived of the buzzars) just as they were going to be boiled, served to confirm our suspicions. Our necessary began,
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at this time, to be very offensive, for those gentlemen who were ill were unable to go to the outside one, nor were any of us suffered to go to it from sun-set to sun-rise; for, during that time, the doors were fast locked. Our cook-room, as well as the necessary, was in the prison, we therefore laboured under another disagreeable inconvenience, from being in a continual smoke the greatest part of the day, while immense swarms of rats, bugs, fleas, and other kinds of vermin, constantly disturbed our nightly rest. The daily insults we received from our cruel, tyrannical enemy, joined to the rest of our treatment, when compared with our former situations in life, at times depressed our spirits, and hurt our feelings so much, that words cannot do justice to our sufferings; but, on reflection, recollecting we were Britons, and how shameful it was to yield to gloomy despair, we resumed our usual gaiety of mind, determined, by the help of Providence, to surmount every difficulty, in hopes of future revenge. On the 29th died Lieut. William Paterson, of the 102d regiment; when the enemy came in

before his body was cold, and, vulture-like, seized upon the few remaining things belonging to him, threatening to punish with rigour those gentlemen who should attempt to conceal any part of them ; after permitting us to read the funeral service, the corpse was removed.

We now became exceedingly anxious to learn the situation of affairs, and punctually listened every night to the conversation of the guard, from whom we hoped to gather some intelligence, and were not disappointed, for we were frequently gratified with the most flattering and plausible accounts of our success against the Nabob, which accounts were sometimes confirmed, and at other times contradicted, by the sentries, with whom we had frequent opportunities of conversing ; we questioned them concerning our Europeans and sepoy who were confined in the fort, and they told us, that the former were treated in the same manner as ourselves, but that the latter, with our servants, were only allowed one seer of rauggy (which is the worst grain in the country), and one pice each, per day ; that they were
employed,

employed, during the day, to work as coolies, carrying stones, mud, and chunam, for erecting and repairing the enemy's works; and, that in the evening, after they had furnished their labour, they were confined in prison with irons upon their legs, and their hands tied behind them; they further informed us, that our sepoys had been frequently asked to enter into the enemy's service, and threatened to be hanged in case they refused to do so, being told, at the same time, that all the European officers had taken service, but that our sepoys disregarded their threats, and told them, with a firm resolution, that not a man of them would enter their service, that they would sooner die working as coolies, and that they well knew none of the European officers had taken, or would take service; this pleasing news of the fortitude and fidelity of our brave sepoys, who were labouring under such cruel hardships, gave us the utmost satisfaction, and considerably lightened the burden of our own sufferings.

On the 3d of July, Doctor Carmichael of the Bombay establishment, had his irons
taken

taken off, and was conducted below to visit Dowlat Bhauee, who had been taken suddenly ill. The Doctor returned in the evening, and informed us, that after having prescribed for the Jemmidah, he gave him a most excellent dinner, and made him an offer of remaining below, which he declined; Dowlat Bhauee also promised the Doctor, that he should not again be put in irons, which was invariably adhered to. On the 11th of this month died Lieutenant Auchénlick, of the Bombay establishment, who had long been ill of a flux; and though frequent applications were made for his irons to be taken off, our hard-hearted enemy would not consent to it; but about an hour before his death, they brought up a blacksmith, and though strongly solicited not to disturb him in his last moments, they positively insisted on knocking off his irons, which they effected with great pain to the poor dying man. On the 7th of August, having been told by the sentries, that a Mahratta army, with a detachment of English troops, were approaching to Chetledroog, our spirits were much elated,

as we could not avoid giving some credit to the report, from the circumstance of the principal men belonging to the government coming up, and enquiring whether any of us understood the nature of mortars, or to cut fuzees, of which we all disclaimed having any knowledge; they then called out five officers, to whom they offered considerable commands in the Nabob's service, as also to the rest of us, provided we would enter, but their offers, were of course, rejected with disdain. On the 27th our daily allowance was augmented to three pice each, and we were informed, that a cessation of arms had taken place between the East-India Company and Tippoo Sultan Nabob Bahauder; that peace was actually on foot, and that the Buriah * Mire would be sent by Dowlat Bhauee, to acquaint us with it; we waited impatiently for a confirmation of this joyful news, till five o'clock in the evening, when the Buriah Mire made his appearance, and acquainted us in a very formal manner, that peace was concluding between the aforesaid belligerent

* A Town Clerk.

rent powers ; that in the mean time, we should have a buzzar, and requested to know all our wants. We were deluded into a firm belief of this intelligence for five days, but on the 1st of September were undeceived, by the buzzar being taken away, and the additional pice struck off ; upon making enquiry into the cause of the sudden change, we were told, that the Buriah Mire would satisfy us on that head ; but as he did not at that time pay us another visit, we concluded it was only a pretext, calculated to serve some particular purpose. On the 5th of October, our daily allowance was again augmented to three pice each, and the following day a buzzar was sent to us, in which was ghee, dholl, Ougar wheat flower, mussaulace, tobacco, limes, and vegetables. On the 20th the Buriah Mire a second time made his appearance, and we were in great expectation of receiving some agreeable intelligence ; but his errand was only to enquire whether any of us understood the method of making musket flints, paper, or black led pencils, offering great rewards

rewards to any person who could instruct him in those arts.

On the 5th of November, we had the misfortune to lose Dr. Carmichael, of the Bombay establishment, who had been ill a considerable time, and whose death was much lamented by every gentleman in prison. Though we found the weather in general milder than on the sea coast, and the monsoons not near so violent, yet our prison was not proof against the rain, which came in through most parts of the roof, and occasioned a dampness, that brought on a slow fever, of which a number of us were at this time ill. On the 4th of December, our servants, as they went to draw water, for the first time, had an opportunity of speaking to those attending upon the gentlemen in the other prison, from whom we had the satisfaction to hear, that they all enjoyed good health, and had only lost, during their confinement, Ensign Bateman of the Bombay establishment, Mr. Brown, Quarter-Master of the 100th regiment, and a private soldier of the 98th regiment. At different periods we experienced various kinds

kinds of treatment, sometimes meeting with less severity than at others ; we had an instance of their lenity on Christmas-Day, when the bazaar man was directed to bring for sale abundance of fruit, sweet-meats, and vegetables, together with some sheep, two of which were purchased by some of the gentlemen, who had saved money out of their daily allowance for that purpose. On the 3d of January, 1784, died much regretted, Lieutenant Drew, of the Bombay establishment, after a painful lingering illness. Having the curiosity to inquire how they disposed of the bodies of the deceased, we were assured by different people, that they were thrown over a precipice into an abyss, there to be devoured by the tygers and vultures. On the 10th, butchers meat was allowed to be brought into the bazaar, and sold in small quantities, in common with other articles. Our treatment was now much better than heretofore ; we wanted for nothing that we could, with our small allowance, afford to purchase, and as many as chose, were permitted to go to the outer yard, from sunrise

rise to sun-set; from this great alteration in the behaviour of the enemy, as also from the repeated assurances, that peace was concluding, we were led to believe, that the happy day would soon arrive, when we should be freed from our shackles, and once more enjoy the liberty of Britons. On the 10th of February died, Lieutenant Hugh Moore, of the 98th regiment, who, some days before his death, had been indulged with a room to himself, in an house in the outer yard, which, after his decease, we were permitted to occupy during the day. We were now positively assured, that peace was concluded, and that all the prisoners would be released in a few days, which happy period we anxiously waited for; but having been so often deceived, we much suspected the truth of this intelligence, notwithstanding the indulgent behaviour of the enemy; however, on the 23d of March, all our doubts were cleared up, for early in the morning, the Wardy. Wollah brought up several blacksmiths, and informed us, that he had received orders from Dowlat Bhauee to knock off all our irons, and to acquaint

quaint us that peace was concluded, and that we were to be released in a day or two. The emotions we felt on receiving this joyful and most welcome news, joined to the pleasing sensation of having our legs at liberty, no pen can describe; for a while, nothing but rejoicings and congratulations were heard re-echoing from every part of the prison. After we were freed from our fetters, we remained two days to get the proper use of our limbs, and on the 25th in the morning, we bid adieu to our jail, and were conducted to an open space of ground just without the prison, where we had not waited long, ere we at a distance discovered our brother officers, who had been separated from us on our arrival at Chettledroog, and such was our eagerness to meet, that the fixed bayonets of the guards could not prevent our running several yards to embrace each other; this was a period of bliss, of which the first monarch in the world might justly have envied us; we were so drowned in joy, that for a while we forgot we were still in the hands of the enemy; but were soon recovered from our

trance,

trance, by receiving orders to proceed below, which we gladly obeyed, and about ten o'clock arrived at the Kutchery,* where we had the inexpressible pleasure of meeting with Messrs. Gordon and Brunton, (two Lieutenants of the Madras establishment, who had been taken prisoners some years before) and of seeing many others of our fellow sufferers, both Europeans and sepoy, but were not permitted to converse with the latter. Our servants, who were taken from us on our arrival at Chettledroog, were delivered over to us, from whom gushed tears of joy, at sight of their masters. We had not long been there, when a very unpleasant sight was presented to our view; which was nothing less than several baskets of handcuffs, for the purpose of again linking us two and two; but on making a forcible representation to Dowlat Bhaee, and on signing a paper, wherein we gave our paroles of honor for our good behaviour, and bound ourselves answerable for that of the troops, he relinquished his intention of making us suffer that horrid,

O

ignominious

* The place where all public business is transacted.

ignominious punishment ; but we were not so successful in our strenuous application in behalf of our brave faithful soldiers; for they, poor fellows, were obliged to endure that cruel treatment. Having been told by our servants, that several of our slave boys had been taken out of the prison in which they were all confined together, and carried away, on the 20th of this month, we demanded them to be given up to us, but met with no other satisfaction, than being told they were all dead.

As most of the officers and men were nearly naked, and all of us in want of shoes, we made an application for a sum of money to be advanced us on the Honorable Company's account, and were informed by Dowlat Bhauec, that a bucksby would be sent with us, who would supply us with every thing we could wish for. Having been detained in the Kutchery till four o'clock in the afternoon, we all marched at that time to the burying ground, about a mile and a half distant from the fort. As soon as we halted, we all assembled together, and related to each other our sufferings ;

ferings ; and, on comparing notes, found that the officers who had been separated from us, were used in every respect in the same manner as ourselves. Messrs. Gordon and Brunton had formerly been confined at Seringapatam, where they were treated tolerably well, and for the first six months were not in irons ; about twenty months before our arrival at Chettledroog, they were removed (with several European soldiers taken with Colonel Bailley) to that fort, where they were at first treated remarkably well, having meat and liquor daily served out to them, exclusive of their allowance of rice and pice, and were besides supplied with a plentiful buzzar. The capture of the Beddanore caused some alteration in their treatment for the worse ; but nothing very material took place, till those gentlemen were detected in a correspondence with Lord Macartney, (Governor of Madras) and in endeavouring to send a letter to us. In consequence of this discovery, they were confined by themselves in a very small dark room, the door of which was only suffered to remain open one hour in the day ;

irons were put on their hands as well as on their legs ; they were fed on the sweepings of the *rauggy store-house, being only allowed one seer of that grain each per day, were deprived of the buzzar, and in every respect treated with the utmost rigour, for some months, till the cessation of arms took place, at which time their irons were taken off, the doors of the prison kept open all day, and ever after used in the same manner as we were. We learned from our servants, that what we heard from the guard in the beginning of July, regarding our Europeans and sepoys, was strictly true.

On the 26th, having received no allowance of rice or pice for the preceding day, we asked for some victuals, and some hours after, a seer of rice, and one pice was delivered to each person ; we were amazed at, and did not know how to account for the reduction of our pittance ; for as peace was concluded, we naturally imagined our allowance would rather have been augmented than curtailed ; but on making enquiry into the

* The worst kind of grain, resembling mustard-seed.

the cause, were told that the Commissioners of Madras, employed in negotiating the treaty, had stipulated no kind of provision for us ; and that the Nabob had sent orders to furnish us with just as much as would keep us from starving, and no more. In the evening we received intelligence from a sepoy, who had formerly been in the English service, that Dowlat Bhauee had kept fifteen of our drummers and slaves, confined them in an house close to where he lived ; also, that the Jemmidæ had detained ten European soldiers, and twenty-three sepoy, whom he separately confined in different parts of the fort, and had given out that they were dead. This day and the 27th, several parties of our European soldiers and sepoy, from various parts of the country, joined us ; and as soon as they could get an opportunity, many of them shewed their gratitude and generosity, by sending several of us a little money, which they had contrived to save when they were first taken. As several officers obtained permission to visit their men, we learned that the Europeans had been better used than

we were, except at one place, where having only a seer of rauggy, and one pice to subsist on, they gave part of that allowance for pieces of dried sheep skin, which being their usual food, fluxed them so much, that out of 230, only 113 survived; and the enemy were so rigid, as not even to allow them to wash their hands and faces, or comb their hair, for the space of four months. Our sepoy were equally oppressed in every prison, all of them having been employed as coolies, carrying mud, stones, &c. the whole time of their confinement, with no other allowance than one seer of rauggy, and one pice each, and having been daily punished with stripes, and threatened to be hanged for refusing to enter into the Nabob's service; this hard usage caused numbers of them to die. One circumstance, of which we were made acquainted by some of the European soldiers, so much redounds to the honor of the sepoy, that it cannot pass unnoticed. In some of the prisons where the Europeans and sepoy were confined together, the latter saved money out of their daily allowance, and purchased meat for

for the former, at the same time telling them, that they well knew the customs of Europeans, and that they could not do without it; also when on the march, they would not suffer them to carry their knapsacks, but the sepoy took them, and carried them themselves; telling the Europeans, that they were better able to bear the heat of the sun than they were, the climate being natural to them.

On the 28th, doolies having been provided for the sick, we commenced our march (guarded by an escort of 60 cavalry, and 500 infantry, under the command of Meer Buckshy) for Ooscottah (a fort lying 16 miles eastward of Bangalore, and 60 miles distant from the pass into the Carnatic); whereas Dowlat Bhauee informed us, all the prisoners were to be collected, and where we should meet some of our own gentlemen sent from Madras, provided with money, and every other article, requisite for our reception. The doolies were only four feet long, and in every respect so bad and incommodious, that no person who could possibly crawl, would accept of one. Prior

to our quitting the burying ground, we obtained a promise to march at what time we chose, 'but that promise was not adhered to, for we seldom or ever decamped before sunrise. During the march, and after we halted, the guards were very particular in keeping the several parties separate, but the Buckshy was so good as to allow many of the Europeans to take off their irons. We had made but few marches, before we found that rice alone had not sufficient sustenance in it, to support us under the fatigue of constant marching in the sun; we therefore made a proposal to the buzbar man, to supply us with the mere necessaries of life out of his shop, at the rate of four pagodas for one, to be paid him on our arrival at Ooscottah, to which, after much entreaty, he seemingly, with reluctance, consented, but he exacted such an exorbitant price for every article, that we did not receive more than the value of half a rupee for every four pagodas; however, that was a matter of very little consideration, when put in competition with the preservation of our lives. Nothing further material happened till our arrival at Seerahguney,

guney, on the 8th of April, when the Bucksby informed us, he expected one of the Commissioners would overtake us that night, as he had heard he was very near ; and the next morning, before the rear was off the ground, Mr. Sadlier (a Counsellor at Madras, and one of the Commissioners) and Ensign Tromblong, of that establishment, overtook us ; the sight of these gentlemen made our hearts leap with joy ; for nothing could be more agreeable to us, at that time, than meeting with some of our own countrymen : those gentlemen who were in the rear were very cordially received by Mr. Tromblong, but Mr. Sadlier's behaviour was not quite so pleasing ; that gentleman, when requested by one of our officers, to use his endeavour with the Bucksby to get all the men taken out of irons, replied, " the situation the troops were then in, was the best and securest method of marching them : " another officer represented to Mr. Sadlier the many distresses of the officers and men, and particularly mentioned their being bare-footed, as also the necessity we were reduced to, of purchasing the mere necessities

faries of life from the buzzar man at such an exorbitant interest ; in answer to which, Mr. Sadlier told him, he could give us no assistance, and asked him, how we intended to discharge the buzzar debt : then immediately turning to another officer, with the coolest indifference, asked him what corps he belonged to. The gentleman, who addressed Mr. Sadlier, was so thunder-struck at these words, and his behaviour, that he could make him no answer, but took his leave in silent astonishment.

This extraordinary behaviour of Mr. Sadlier's, hurt our feelings more sensibly than any thing we had hitherto experienced ; such treatment from the enemy might have been expected, but to receive it from one of our own countrymen, and from the first person too who was eye-witness of our distress, was cruel beyond measure. Had this gentleman's humanity been as eminent as his want of it, our misfortunes might, by his means, have been alleviated in some degree. After a short stay, Mr. Sadlier and Ensign Tromblong proceeded on their way to Bangalore, the former gentleman leaving

us a present of fix bottles and a half of various sorts of liquors, which our situation would not allow us to refuse, as we concluded it might be of service to some of those gentlemen who were sick.

On the 12th, having lost, by death, only two Europeans, we arrived at Ooscottah, where we found Lieutenant Dallas, of the Madras cavalry, with a detachment of that corps, and two companies of sepoy, appointed by the Commissioners to receive the prisoners; this gentleman's behaviour was widely different from Mr. Sadlier's; the contrast was a very pleasing one, for Mr. Dallas came to us in the evening, (accompanied by Lieutenant M'Allister, and Cornet Lennard, of the Madras cavalry) and with the most friendly good nature, offered us every kind of assistance in his power.

On the 13th arrived another party of prisoners, whom the Commissioners had collected on their march from Mangalore, when a second happy meeting ensued; and, in the evening, we all joined Lieutenant Dallas, and were delivered over in charge to
Reem

Beem Row, a Brahmin, whom the Nabob had appointed to conduct the prisoners from Ooscottah to the Carnatic, it having been agreed by the treaty, that all the British prisoners should be delivered up at Vellore. We now enjoyed a greater scope of liberty than we had ever done since we were captured, being allowed to range over the whole camp; and Beem Row was so good as to take all the troops out of irons, though he had orders from the Nabob to the contrary; we also lived in perfect luxury, compared to our late mode of existing; for Mr. Dallas furnished us tents, and daily supplied us with meat and liquors, but still he found it a difficult matter to please every individual, for some gentlemen were much discontented with his behaviour, though he certainly used all his exertions to give general satisfaction. This day arrived from Bangalore, Mr. Sadlier and Colonel Brathwaite, of the Madras establishment, which latter gentleman had obtained permission from the Nabob to proceed to Madras with Mr. Sadlier, before the other prisoners; they accordingly set out for the Carnatic the next morning, leaving a
large

large quantity of the Company's liquors, and 2000 pagodas, which sum was afterwards distributed, reserving a part for the rest of the prisoners, who were hourly expected; each officer received two pagodas, each sailor one pagoda and a half, and each soldier one pagoda; the sepoy's did not receive any till some days after, when they each shared one rupee and an half: each of the officers also received one hat, a pair of shoes, four pair of stockings, and a sufficient quantity of broad cloth for one coat; these articles having been sent up by the government of Madras. On the 15th arrived the Madras prisoners from Seringapatam and Bangalore, who (having received frequent supplies of cash from Madras, and been better treated while in confinement than the officers taken at Beddanore) had it in their power to supply us with several articles we stood much in need of, which many of them gladly did in the most friendly manner, sharing their cloaths and money with us.

All the prisoners (in number about 180 officers, and 900 European soldiers and sailors, and 1,600 sepoy's, besides some hundreds

dreds of servants of different occupations) were now met together, and, on recounting to each other our several misfortunes, the following intelligence was collected; viz.

“ That at Beddanore the officers left wounded there, were used much better than at any other place, having been allowed to keep all their cloaths, doolies, cots, ^{ie} chairs, tables, knives, forks, &c. were besides indulged with the free use of pen, ink, and paper; a certain part of the rampart, including two towers, were also allotted for them to range about in; their servants were permitted to go to the buzzars to purchase whatever they chose to send for, but their daily allowance was only one seer of rice, and one pice to each; when they were recovered of their wounds (having been allowed a French surgeon to attend them) they were put in irons; that Ensign Manley, of the Bombay establishment, who had been taken in a sally at Mangalore, was sent to Beddanore, and there confined in the same prison with some sepoy, upon no other allowance than a seer of rauggy, and one pice per day; that the officers who were sent to
Darwaur

Darwaur (a fort near Goa) were confined with the private men, upon the same allowance as we were, but were afterwards removed to Simoga, where they were kept on a feed of rauggy and one pice; and their irons were fixed in such a manner, with a straight bar between their legs, that they could neither contract or expand them; that the officers confined at Seringapatam, were allowed each a golden fanam per day, with which they were at liberty to purchase whatever they wanted; that those gentlemen who were confined at Bangalore, were daily allowed the same as ourselves, but clandestinely received frequent supplies of cash from Madras, with which they were permitted to purchase every article they wanted; and latterly were allowed to visit each other in their prisons; that the private Europeans also received different treatment in the various parts of the country where they were imprisoned, some meeting with tolerable usage, while others were treated worse than brutes; that the sepoy, as before-mentioned, were equally ill-used in every prison; that the Nabob had circumcised Lieutenants

Rutledge,

Rutledge, Speediman, and Clarke, of the Madras establishment, with 200 English soldiers and sailors, against their inclinations, and had, by force, detained them all in his service; and had likewise forcibly detained five midshipmen of his Majesty's navy; every man, white or black, who was known to be an artificer: most of the drummers and fifers, and several women and children. That the Nabob, actuated by a most cruel, inhuman disposition, had poisoned the following English officers; viz.

“ Brigadier General Mathews, at Serin-
gapatam; Major Rumly, Capt. Frazer, and
Lieut. Sampson, of the Madras establish-
ment, at Mysore; Major Fewtrill, Cap-
tains Eames, Lendrum, Jackson, M'Cul-
loch, Richardson, Gotlich; and Clift; Lieu-
tenants Barnwell, Young, and Olivier:
Messrs. Stewart and Check, all of the Bom-
bay establishment: Capt. Campbell, of the
98th regiment, Captains Alston and Fish,
and Ensign Gifford, of the 100th regiment,
at Coppuldroog. That the horrid mur-
derer had also assassinated Lieut. Mathews,
of the Bengal establishment, (brother to Ge-
neral

neral Mathews) and Lieut. Wheldon, of the Bombay establishment, at Beddanore; and had, moreover, sent directions to murder all the English officers whom he had taken: but hearing that the Commissioners for negotiating the treaty of peace had set out from Madras, he countermanded those bloody orders.

“ That four days before the officers were released from Beddanore, all the Commandants, Subahdaurs, and Jemmidars, of the Bombay establishment, whom the Nabob had taken prisoners, were, by his orders, removed from thence, and have never since been heard of; therefore, as he frequently threatened to put them to death for refusing to enter into his service, it is reasonable to suppose he has murdered those fine fellows, even after the peace was concluded.”

In confirmation of this news, several of the officers, while in prison, received letters from the three Lieutenants, and several others of those unfortunate men who had been circumcised, making them acquainted with the Nabob's villainous conduct; and the officers who were prisoners at Seringapatam, daily

saw these poor fellows come on the parade in moor-mens' dresses, and drilled by the enemy; from them we likewise learned, that the two officers murdered at Beddanore, were taken out of that fort at ten o'clock at night, carried into the Jungle, and there cut to pieces; of which the officers confined at Beddanore received the most certain accounts the next morning, when the cloaths of these unfortunate victims were brought to them for sale. This conduct of the Nabob's, must naturally impress every British subject with a shocking idea of the man's savage cruelty, and excite in their breasts such a spirit of revenge, as it is to be hoped will not be eradicated till amply satisfied.

On the 17th, Lieutenant Dallas dismounting his cavalry, and supplying as many of the officers as he could with horses, we began our march from Ooscottah (escorted by a small guard of the Nabob's) towards Vellore, at which place we arrived on the 25th of April, 1784, where Lieut. Dallas gave Beem Row a receipt for all the prisoners the Nabob had delivered up, and we were once more at liberty to enjoy that freedom

dom which is the inherent privilege of every Briton.

The Government of Bombay, it is to be hoped, on our return to that settlement, will consider our losses and sufferings, and convince the world, that humanity has not totally forsaken the East; they will also, no doubt, pay the most particular attention to the merits of their sepoys, by presenting each of them with some distinguishing mark of military honor, for having shewn such instances of courage, resolution, and fidelity, in their gallant behaviour in the campaign under the command of Brigadier-General Mathews, and during their imprisonment, when labouring under the most cruel hardships, which will perpetuate their fame, and serve as an example and encouragement to the rest of their troops, to behave in the like commendable manner, should they ever be so unfortunate as to be caught in a snare of the same kind.

What has been advanced in favour of the sepoys, is by no means with an intention to

depreciate the character of the European troops, whose services have been full as conspicuous ; but such behaviour is expected from the natives of Britannia and Hibernia, from their well-known national character, and established reputation.

F I N I S,

G L O S S A R. Y.

Bahawder—A military title similar to a Knight.

Bazzar—A market.

Bukshee—A paymaster.

Circarrs—Districts.

Cofs—A distance nearly equal to an English league.

Divan—A council of the Nabob and his Ministers of State.

Doolies—A kind of cots, commonly carried on the heads of four men, for the conveyance of sick or wounded people.

Duan—A Prime Minister of State.

Durbar—A Nabob's place of audience.

Havildarr—A Serjeant.

Jemminidar—A Lieutenant of sepoy; also the head man of a district is often called by this title.

Killadarr—Commander of a fort, from killa a fort and darr, an officer.

Lack—One hundred thousand.

Looty, or Looties—Freebooters, or plunderers.

Nabob

G L O S S A R Y.

Nabob—Governor, or Prince of a country.

Naick—A corporal of sepoy.

Paddy—The general name for rice, whilst green, or in its dry state before the husks are beaten off.

Pagodas—Gold coin of eight shillings each, currency.

Pagoda—General name of a Gentoo temple.

Pettah—A suburb, generally adjoining to a fort, and commonly walled in.

Pice—Coin, nearly to the value of one penny each.

Peons—Irregulars, who arm themselves after their own manner.

Polligarrs—Generally armed with match-lock guns, or pikes.

Rupee—A coin, about two shillings and three-pence value.

Sepoys—Black foldiers.

Seer—A measure, containing somewhat more than a pint.

Subah—Governor General, or Prince over other Nabobs.

Subidarr—Captain of Sepoys.

Tank

G L O S S A R Y.

Tank—A large reservoir of water, collected in order to water the rice fields.

Tank—Also a basin of water near a Gentoo temple, for the use of bathing.

Topasses—Native black Christians, the remains of the antient Portuguese.

Tope—A Grove.

Vackeel—Ambassador.

